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VELODROME IN REGION 'A MUST'

Report by Jamie Brassington

BLACK Country cycling legend Hugh Porter MBE has backed a campaign to build a velodrome in the West Midlands ahead of the Birming-2022 Commonwealth ham Games.

The region does not possess an indoor banked race track and there are fears the Games' cycling events could be held 130 miles away in London.

It has prompted Halesowen & Rowley Regis



MP James Morris to launch a cross-party campaign with sup-port from 13 West Midlands MPs calling for a new cycling

Mr Porter, who won Commonwealth gold on the track in 1966, said: "I definitely support the campaign. I would like to see a velodrome built to

Hugh Porter MBE host Commonwealth cycling.

"I am delighted Birmingham was awarded "I am delighted Birmingham was awarded the Games but I think if we are going to promote the Games, we should be able to provide the facilities. I feel sad competitors won't be able to compete where we are."

Mr Porter, 78, who was born in Wolverhampton, is one of Britain's greatest professional cyclists. He won four world titles in the individual surgerity.

clists. He won four world titles in the individual pursuit. He is also patrol He is a champion of Halesowen Cycling and Athletic Club.

The club's 70-year-old outdoor track off Manor Way received praise from Mr Morris who called it a 'superb' facility which promotes grassroots cycling. But the Conservative MP also said the region is in urgent need of a modern indoor track.

He has written a letter to the chief executive officer of British Cycling, Julie Harrington, outlining his concerns. The letter was backed by 13 West Midlands MPs including Dudley MPs Ian Austin and Mike Wood and Wolverhampton MP Emma Reynolds.

MP Emma Revnolds.

Mr Morris said the Games represents a 'mas-sive opportunity' for the West Midlands to de-

well pink that we was initiated to develop its sporting infrastructure.

"As the region's MPs we feel it would be a missed opportunity if cycling is simply to be sent to London, rather than fostering the talent we have in the West Midlands," said Mr Morris.

CYCLISTS ARE GOING DUTCH TO FLY THE FLAG



Halesowen North councillor Stuart Henley (right) who is riding to Amsterdam with his friends Bill Campbell and Peter Bennett

TEAM Black Country Boys are saddling up to cycle to Amsterdam and raise money for charity.

Halesowen North councillor Stuart Henley and his friends Bill Campbell along with Peter Bennett will be pedalling the 145-mile journey wearing the red, white and black flag of the Black Country.

They are joining an army of 300 riders tak-ing part in the Football to Amsterdam event in the hope of raising awareness about pros-tate cancer, a disease that affects one in eight men in the UK.

Two weeks before the World Cup kicks off, a total of 400 football fans will cycle from London to the Dutch capital over two days,

The trio from Dudley, who are hoping to raise £3,000 for Prostate Cancer UK, have raised £845 so far. A fundraising event will be held on May 5 at Parkes Hall Social Club, in Dudley, from 7pm with live music, competitions, a raffle and auction for match tickets, a signed Walsall FC ball and entry into local attractions. Tickets costs £3 adults and £2 children from Mr Campbell on 07961 068352.

This is the second time the team have taken part in the event, again with kits decorated with the Black Country Flag, sponsored by

Fixed Wheel Brewery in Halesowen.

Councillor Henley said: "I had a scare a few years ago but thankfully it turned out to be nothing. We want to encourage people to get checked."

Checked.

About the trip he added: "It's a challenge, but it is for a good cause."

The specially-designed kits can be bought on Facebook page Team Black Country Boys 2018 and the proceeds go to charity.

HOUSING

Green light to turn offices into bedsits

A FORMER office block in Cradley Heath is to be turned into 20-room bedsit accommodation after plans were approved by

modation after plans were approved by Sandwell planners.

The former office block and training centre on Cradley Road will become a 'House in Multiple Occupation' after council bosses approved the plans on Tuesday. Cradley Heath and Old Hill's Councillor Caroline White said: "It will help to ease the problem caused by lack of effordable."

the problem caused by lack of affordable housing."

TRADE

Jobs under threat at Toys R Us stores

MORE than 3,000 jobs hang in the bal-ance as Toys R Us went into adminis-tration yesterday (Wednesday). Administrators from Moorfields Ad-

Administrators from Moorfields Advisory have been appointed to the UK arm of the troubled toy store chain, which has more than 100 stores nationwide, including at Oldbury and Merry Hill. No decision has been made yet about store closures as administrators try to find a buyer.

TRAGEDY Family home for sale after murder

THE home of a family torn apart by a vicious knife attack has been put up for sale.

Aaron Barley murdered Tracey Wilkinson and her 13-year-old son Pierce at Rathmore Lodge on Greyhound Lane in Norton, Stourbridge, in March last year.

Father Peter Wilkinson and daughter Lydia Wilkinson were reported to have

Lydia Wilkinson were reported to have moved back into the family home but the property is now for sale at £650,000 via The Lee Shaw Partnership.

INSIDE

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He always

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Club closes six months after stabbing

was stabbed to death has closed with bosses blaming 'a campaign against

Ryan Passey died after being stabbed at Chicago's in Stourbridge in August.

Kobe Murray, aged 19, was found not guilty of murdering Mr Passey after a trial.

Bosses at the venue in the Ryemar-

ket shopping centre said it was shutting down with immediate effect.

More than 3,500 people had signed a petition calling for the club to close

for good.

Mr Murray, of The Broadway, Dudley, denied murdering 24-year-old Mr Passey and was cleared of murder and manslaughter by a jury at Birmingham Crown Court

Mr Murray told the court he had a

knife in his hand and 'pushed out' to fend off an attack, accidentally stab-bing Mr Passey. Peter Marks, chief executive of Del-

re's, which runs Chicago's, confirmed 18 full and part-time jobs would be lost due to the closure of the club, which opened in 2012.

He said: "We are not the heartless

business we have been portrayed to

Chicago's was devastated by Mr Pas-sey's death. But he added: "Chicago's never had a chance to defend itself due to the legal case and was consistently misrepresented by many. Until that tragic night, the club had an unblemished licensing record of providing a fun and safe night out for the people in Stourbridge. Putting the blame on a single venue is not the answer.

Councillor quits during heated debate over tax hike

COUNCILLORS clashed in Dudley's council chamber during a fierce de-bate over council tax, which left one member vowing to resign.

A 4.49 per cent increase was approved but only after Ukip Councillor Star Anderton left the room and said she would be resigning.

The Conservative-run authority

and proposed the tax hike but the move was criticised by Ukip councillors who wanted it boosted by just 2.99 per cent. Both Labour and Conservative members criticised Ukip's proposal.

proposal.

Councillor Steve Clark, a Conservative, said: "Dudley is a low-spending, low-taxing council. We have made savings of £85 million in the last seven years, but compared to the average council we have £13m less a year to spend due to a low council tax. We have a goal to protect our frontline services."

Labour councillor David Sparks Labour councillor David Sparks agreed with the Tory proposal and said that the council needed a plan. "We clearly need to adopt a strategy," he said. "We still have a problem in long-term financial sustainability."

Chaos ensued after Councillor Sparks suggested Ukip would 'play up to the public gallery'. Councillor Anderton accused Councillor Sparks Anderton accused Councilior Sparxa of being 'rude' and told him to 'shut up'. This prompted Mayor Dave Tyler to order Councillor Anderton not to speak for the rest of the meeting. Councillor Anderton, who uses a wheelchair, said: "I've had enough, I'll resign right now" storming out while her pivals broke out into ampliance her rivals broke out into applause.

Labour leader in call for more police officers JEREMY Corbyn took to the

streets with police in Stourbridge before pledging that a Labour Government would recruit 10,000 extra officers.

The Labour leader was starting the party's bid to win back the Wollaston

party's bid to win back the Wollaston and Stourbridge Town ward in the upcoming local elections in May. It was also part of a Labour action day against police cuts at the weekend. He said: "The resources have to be made available to keep people safe." He held a meeting at the town's Chemistry Cafe with West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson to talk about to olice cuts and rising crime figtalk about police cuts and rising crime fig-ures, as well as talking a walk down the High Street, posing for selfies on the way.

Invest

Mr Corbyn tweeted afterwards: "I've been talking with police officers in Stourbridge. The Tories have cut police numbers and left forces without the resources they need. Labour will recruit 10,000 extra police officers. You can't protect communities on the cheap.

"There is no doubt that crime is being

made worse by police funding cuts," he said. "If you have fewer officers on the beat and then you have slower clear up rates, which becomes part of the problem.
"There are also general issues of dislo-

cation where you close youth centres and dismiss youth workers.

"We have to invest in the police but we must also invest in what I call the social infrastructure that goes around people's

Despite a shocking increase in knife crime which has seen 21 stabbings in the West Midlands so far this year, he rejected calls for compulsory prison sentences for those found guilty of carrying a blade.

Mr Corbyn said: "A mandatory jail term is not necessarily the answer. Community service and restorative justice can be a much more effective tool."



Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn in Stourbridge town centre with Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, right



Mr Corbyn poses for a selfie during his visit



Mr Corbyn chats with staff at the Chemistry Cafe

Sports centre to get hero's name

A NEW leisure centre planned for Dudley town centre will be named af-ter football legend Duncan Edwards.

Dudley Council has plans to replace the centre in Wellington Road with a new facility by 2021. It has also been announced that 'Duncan Edwards Day' will see the Dudley-born footballer, who died 60 years ago, celebrated annually on his birthday, October 1

Duncan's cousins Keith Edwards and Laurence Brownhill were present in the audience for the screening of The Boy Who Had It All, a short film by Dudley-based director Marcus

The film premiered at Old Trafford last year and was being shown in the football legend's home town for the first time to mark the 60th anniversary of his death two weeks after the

Munich Air Disaster.

● The greatest says Doc - Page 17



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for council review to be 'transparent'

A FUNDAMENTAL review should be carried out into how Sandwell Council is run, according to a Local Government Association (LGA) report into the authority.

The LGA says the already-planned review, which will be carried out by the council's monitoring officer, must focus on ensuring best practice is followed and should involve an outside group to reassure people over 'transparency'

The council asked the LGA to carry out the Peer Review in October, and it was published this week.

In January Halesowen and Row-ley Regis MP James Morris called on Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling

Mr Eling said the Conservative
MP's remarks about Sandwell Council in the House Of Commons were 'disgraceful', as he made clear he has no intention of quitting.

The Peer Report gave 12 recommendations with the key recommendation being to 'complete and implement the planned fundamental review of gov-ernance'. It said: "The review should focus on ensuring the processes and protocols in place reflect best practice,

protocols in place renect oest practice, and support and enable a culture of challenge and transparency."

The report, which followed a four-day visit by the LGA, did find there was 'clear focus and desire' from leaders to improve service.

Fire crew ready to scale new heights

FIREFIGHTERS will need to be in peak physical shape when they attempt to climb the height of Mount Everest – without leaving the Black Country.

Crews from Haden Cross Fire Sta-Crews from Haden Cross Fire Station will attempt to climb 8,848 metres – that's 29,029ft – using ladders at Merry Hill shopping centre on April 21 for the Fire Fighters Charity.

Natasha Mason, the charity's regional fundraising team manager, said: "We are hugely grateful to the crew from Haden Cross Fire Station

for deciding to take on this ambitious ladder climb challenge to raise money for our charity.

You can donate online at www.iust giving.com/fundraising/hadencross website.

Shirts make £11k

ALBION have raised more than £11,000 for charity through the auction of their shirts dedicated to Cyrille Regis. The Baggies wore the tops with the Regis motif for their 3-2 defeat to

Report calls | Students filmed fundraising car project | NEWS IN BRIEF



Students Ellie Field-Carter, Ryan Storey and Jack Kearns with Car SOS presenter Fuzz Townshend

College has taken part in a special car restoration project to raise money for charity.

Students were asked to film the restoration of a Morris Minor car called Glenys, which will be raffled off for the Prim-

rose Hospice in Bromsgrove.
They worked with former Pop
Will Eat Itself drummer Fuzz Townshend, now a presenter from Car SOS, a TV programme shown on National Geographic and Channel 4, to film the major

nership with Oldbury car deal-ership David Manners Group. Students Ellie Field-Carter, Ryan Storey, Jeff Githinji, James Bird and Jack Kearns filmed the 1966 car being restored and upgraded over a year.

Project

The car was the prize in a raf-fle that raised more than £5,000 toward sthe hospice's £1.8m a year running costs

Jez Alsop, Film A-Level

Course Leader at the college, said: "This was a fantastic project to get involved in and our students really got stuck in and started to plan shot types and interview questions before filming started.

"They then went out to the

garage a few times over the year to film the restoration and it was

a great experience for them."

The filming of the car restoration can be seen on YouTube, where it has already attracted thousands of views

vehicles of sat navs and dash cams that have been left on display." It comes after the Halesowen Chronicle reported a crimewave was hitting the town. **Councillor guilty**

of code breach

Thefts from cars

on the increase

MOTORISTS are being warned to remove valuables from cars in Hale-sowen overnight following a spike in

thefts. Vehicles are being targeted, particularly for dashboard cameras and sat navs. It has prompted Halesowen police sergeant Lisa Brooks to issue a warning. She said: "Please ensure that you are removing your valuables from your vehicles overnight. We are seeing an increase in theft from motor relabilities of facts that was added to the control of the property of the property

UKIP councillor Bill Etheridge has been found to have breached Dudley Council's code of conduct at a discipli-

The standards committee hearing was held after Councillor Etheridge uploaded two videos to Facebook last year where he made comments deemed 'threatening and disrespectful', inlcuding referring to Labour members as 'imbeciles' and 'Commu-

nist rat bags'.
Councillor Etheridge declined to attend the meeting. The committee will report to full council on April 9.

Record visitors figure at museum

THE Black Country Living Museum

celebrated its busiest year in 2017.

More than 330,000 visitors walked through the doors of the museum last year, up eight per cent on its previous record attendance.

The museum, in Tipton Road, Dud-ley, welcomed a record-breaking total of 332,778 peopl. In 2016, the popular museum welcomed 306,100 visitors.

Laura Wakelin, deputy chief execu tive for communications and market-ing, said: "That's 26,000 more people visiting the museum than in 2016 which in itself was a fantastic year."

It will soon be Chico time for fitness fans

IT'S Chico Time in Halesowen next Saturday (March 10) when X Factor and Dancing On Ice star Youssef 'Chico' Slimani promotes a fitness class. The pop singer and TV celebrity, who had a hit with It's Chico Time in 2006, will be teaming up with Workoutz owner Tracey Nicholls for the Block Fit fitness class at Lutley Primary School from 102m with a meet mary School from 10am with a meet and greet at 11am. See www.facebook. com/events/1608054759242776/

Driver cleared of causing death of motorcyclist

A MOTORIST who admitted speeding but denied racing with a motorcyclist who was killed in a crash has been cleared of causing the man's death by

dangerous driving.
It took a jury at Wolverhampton Crown
Court 47 minutes to unanimously acquit civil engineer Dylan Dudgon after a trial held last

week.
The 42-year-old, who was at the wheel of a 2.8-litre Audi A4 Quattro estate, insisted: "We were

litre Audi A4 Quattro estate, insisted: "We were independently speeding. It was not a race."

CCTV analysis showed the 42-year-old was travelling at 68mph in a 30 limit while his friend, pub manager Elliot Beddow, was going even faster at 78mph on a Harley Davidson.

The defendant described how he followed the bike after it accelerated 'hard' away from a set of traffic lights onto Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, until the machine 'inexplicably' slowed and was passed by the Audi before Elliott overtook him again moments before the crash.

They were filmed six tenths of a second and around 60ft apart moments after the bike had overtaken the car approaching a corner where the 20-year-old rider lost control. He was killed when the machine slid into a set of railings in Brettell Lane. The accident happened shortly after 2am on Lane. The accident happened shortly after 2am on September 3, 2016.

Shocked

Dudgon told the court: "The first I was aware of the bike overtaking me was the sound of the ex-

the bike overtaking me was the sound of the exhaust. Then he was adjacent to the driver's door. It shocked me because of the noise. I shuddered.

"I was driving too fast, in excess of the speed limit. The bike has gone past me travelling just to the right of the line in the centre of the road. Then his back wheel went from underneath him. I slowed down and the bike's gone down. It spun and there were sparks (thing averywhere."

slowed down and the bike's gone down. It spun and there were sparks flying everywhere."

Dudgon stopped at the scene to let three passengers get out to offer assistance while he parked his car round a corner, the court was told.

He continued: "I ran straight up to Elliot. He was on the pavement. Other people were there. I held his hand and tried to speak to him but got no response. I knelt with him for a short amount of time until the parameters came. They asked for a time until the paramedics came. They asked for a



Engineer Dylan Dudgon was acquitted by a jury

coat and I ran to the car to get one and put it over Elliot. Police were arriving. I went over to Elliot, wished him bon voyage. I was aware he had passed

Dudgon and his friends then ordered a taxi and left the scene without him notifying police that he had been the driver of the car which was immediately behind the bike when it crashed. He explained: "I had just witnessed the worst thing I had ever seen in my life. I was in shock and none of the police asked anything of me, until one told me to clear off."

When interviewed by police several days after the crash, he said: "I know, with hindsight, I should have stayed there."

The court heard that the two men had known each other for around three years and, according to



Motorcyclist Elliot Beddow, aged 20, died in crash

the defendant, became close friends. Dudgon had been at The Mitre in Stourbridge town centre for over seven hours during which he 'predominantly' deput level and and all pred during the

over seven nours during which he predominantly drank lemonade and played darts.

The victim, who had time off from his job at Katie Fitzgerald's pub in the town, had joined him during the evening and the pair were still there at 1 am when the bar closed and left in convoy intending to go to a Brierley Hill night club. He was described as an inexperienced rider. as an inexperienced rider.

as an inexperienced rider.

The court heard Dudgon, of Victoria Road, Brierley Hill, who had a previous conviction for a drug offence, was seen throwing a sock into a hedge before leaving the scene. It was found to contain digital scales, cocaine and ecstasy. He admitted possession of the drugs and was fined a total of £500 with £500 costs.









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*Court deals with members of lorry jacking crime gang

most £500,000 worth of metal after targeting 11 lorries in as many months, a judge heard.

Loads of aluminium, sheet met-al and copper piping were taken between November 2016 and last October, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Foreign drivers were lured from their vehicles and members of the gang then drove off with the truck and its cargo, said Mr Graham Russell, prosecuting. In one case the thieves were forced to flee by a driver armed with a hammer in Walsall, while the gang were foiled by another who refused to leave his cab in Cradlev Heath.

The gang used a tracker blocker to

Fundraiser for homeless

MUSICIANS will come together to raise funds and awareness for the homeless in April at a Stourbridge pub. The event on April 22 will aim to raise money for Leslie's Care Packages for the Homeless which provides

ages for the Homeless which provides practical support for homeless people in the Black Country.

Vi Wood, founder of Leslie's Care Packages, said: "People really are coming together and it's absolutely amazing and it's needed." It takes place at Katie Fitzgerald's in Enville Street, hosted by We Shall Overcome.

HARBORNE

after escaping with a total haul worth £470,000. The trucks were driven a short distance before the tractor unit

short distance before the tractor unit was swapped for a cab on false plates. On August 17 a lorry with £55,000 worth of copper was taken. Five days later a driver with a load of copper val-ued at £89,000 was parked in Wednesbury and was woken by 35-year-old Craig Mills who asked if he was ready to unload. Mills called the driver out of his cab where his place was quickly taken by another member of the gang as Mills escaped in a waiting VW Golf. That car was chased by police, reach-ing 100mph along the M6 before it was halted by a stinger near Junction 10.

Fled

The occupants of the car fled to a compound where Mills and Anthony Kennedy, aged 34, were arrested. The trailer and load were never recovered. In further incidents, a £220,000

batch of tyres was stolen from Central Avenue, Cradley Heath, on September 19 and on October 30 a lorry carrying metal worth £60,000 was taken from a Bilston company. The replacement vehicle was traced with 44-year-old Thomas Arnold behind the wheel.

Kennedy, of Davis Avenue, Tipton, on licence after being freed from a robbery sentence, and Mills, of Galbraith Close, Coseley, both admitted con-spiracy to steal. The former was jailed for two years eight months while the latter, who has poor health, received a 12 month term suspended for two years. Arnold, of Neptune Street, Tipton admitted taking a vehicle without permission and got 20 weeks jail suspended for two years.

Hero's brass stand stolen from church



The stolen brass book stand which had been used in services at St Mary's Church in Oldswinford for more than 90 years

AN 'irreplaceable' brass book stand that was gifted to a church nearly a century ago by a hero's war widow has

been stolen during a burglary.

Thieves broke in to the vestry at St
Mary's Church in Oldswinford taking the stand and food donated the congregation for the Black Country Food Bank.

The book stand was given to the church by Elizabeth Lambert, wife of Gunner Arthur Henry Lambert, four

years after his death during the First World War in 1918 and has been used at services ever since.

The church was open to the public at the time of the theft but valuables were locked away in the vestry. A bolted door was forced by the crooks.

Church leaders have appealed for the book stand, which holds the Bible on the altar during services, to be returned. St Mary's has been closed during the day following the break-in,

while officials look at increasing security. There had been previous attempted break-ins.

Parish administrator John Sutton said: "I'm disappointed more than anything. We would like to have the book stand back so it can be used again in the abuse"."

stand back so it can be used again in the church."

Arthur Lambert grew up on Hagley Road and had an affinity with the church, where he was a choir boy and led Bible class before going to war.

Albion legends at mascot's

morial football match in honour of a much-loved former referee and Albion mascot.

Former Albion stars Andy Johnson, Geoff Horsfield and Lee Hughes are expected to turn out for the game which will be played between Boing FC and an Albion Legends side which will pay tribute to Richard Eades, who died in December, aged 42.

The event will be held at Halesowen Town FC on Sunday, April 29.

Mascots from other football clubs will take part in a special mascot match before the main event while there will also be an nine-a-side foot-ball tournament earlier in the day.

Richard spent nearly 30 years involved with Albion in a variety of roles, including in more recent years taking on the roles of mascots including Baggie Bird, Baggie Junior and Albi.

Tickets are available to buy from www.tickettailor.com/events/richar deadesmemorialfundraiser/148087

No replacement for **V** at Weston Park

THE new music event replacing the V Festival will not be held Weston Park this year. Instead the RiZE Festival will only be held at Hylands Park in Chelmsford.

Previously the Essex venue and the stately home on the Staffs-Shropshire border had jointly held the popular V Festival every August since the 1990s. But Virgin withdrew their sponsorship and the Roseclaim organisation stepped in with the RiZE event, which will be headlined by Liam Gallagher and Stereophonics.

Bosses at Weston Park say talks are already underway with Roseclaim about a 'future project'next year.



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over eye drug

EYE health campaigner Elaine Shaw has met Health Minister Steve Brine to push for Government action on vital sight-saving treatment for pa-

vital sight-saving treatment for patients in England.

Elaine, who suffers from the rare eye condition Myopic CNV, will press for action as she seeks quicker treatment access to prevent blindness. Dudley North MP Ian Austin has also backed her campaign.

Those suffering from Myopic CNV are usually prescribed a drug called Lucentis, but the eyes often stop responding after repeated injections and patients have to switch to another

patients have to switch to another

drug, Eyelea.

Currently, this is immediately available in Scotland and Wales, but

available in Scotland and Wales, but not in England.
Elaine, 58, from Dudley, said: "I know that delays in accessing sight-saving treatment are still happening and we need to tackle the causes so that we can stop this needless loss of sight once and for all."

Mr Austin has previously raised the issue in Parliament. He said: "I was

appalled to discover that people in her position were being denied quick treatment that could save their sight.

"I've been campaigning to get these drugs made available and I'm pleased that Elaine met with Steve Brine so she could tell him about her cam-

Choral concert with Salvation Army band

CRADLEY Heath Salvation Army and Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir join forces for a concert on Saturday The band and choir will perform at the Citadel at Meredith Street,

Cradley Heath, and tickets cost £5 including refreshments. To book, call David Cormell on (01384) 393 067 or The Salvation Army Office on (01384) 563570. The choir is celebrating its

Campaigner meets minister DIY SOS fraudster is put behind bars for five years

Picture this! Artists showcase best work



THE work of almost 30 artists is be on at an annual exhibition.

show at an annual exhibition.

The Brierley Hill Society of Artists has returned to the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley with its showcase, which runs until March 18.

It features watercolours, silk prints, oils, pastels, textiles, acrylics and lino

prints including landscapes, portraits, still life and drawings. There are nearly 120 framed prints on display,

nampton, and Christina Philipott, of Kir plus 95 unframed prints and a total of 27 artists are represented. Pieces include local scenes such as the cone itself, the Clent Hills, Black Country canals, as well as scenes from further afield including Venice. Some of the most popular portraits with a local flavour include Str Lenny Henry as well as Peaky Blinders fa-vourite Tommy Shelby, played by Cil-lian Murphy.

All work is for sale with pieces avail

able from £15 upwards.

There is also a small children's exhibition and the group hopes that this will grow as younger members join the

group.
The Red House Glass Cone, on High Street, Wordsley, is open from 10am to 3pm Monday to Friday and 11am to 4pm at weekends. Admission is free to the art exhibition

A ROGUE trader who claimed he featured in the TV show DIY SOS has been jailed for five years.

Unqualified James Carter - who drove around in a van falsely claiming he had been on the popular DIY show – was told his 'shoddy' work had 'desecrated' cherished homes.

Recorder Benjamin Nicholls condemned the Stourbridge fraudster for his 'hypocrisy and bare-faced cheek' which left 15 victims out of pocket to the tune of £140,000 in total.

Sentencing at Stafford Crown Court, the recorder said: "This type of offending undermines public confidence in trädesmen and hås an impact on the majority of tradesmen who are both skilled and honest.

"He misrepresented and lied about his skills, experience and qualifica-tions and was prepared to use forged documents.

"He used false names and addresses to try and ensure that disgruntled customers could not track him down,

customers could not track nim down, and when all else failed, he resorted to abuse and aggression."

Carter's offending may have caused a further loss of almost £60,000 to his victims, who have had to shell out cash to fix his work.

Names

Carter, 40, targeted families across last August.
the West Midlands, including people living in Kingswinford, Dudley, Haleman said Carter, of Vicarage Road, sowen, Smethwick and Bilston.

sent complaint letters and received no three counts.

The court heard he was also in breach

including Fallon, Fallow and Williams 2016 for benefit fraud



Roque roofer James Carter lied about his skills and qualifications

Wollaston, 'wants nothing more to do

sowen, Smethwick and Biston.

He used eight different trading with self employment.'
names, including Central Roofing Services, to cheat customers over almost two years.

Unsuspecting customers were given

Wollaston, Wants nothing more to do wollaston, wants nothing more to do the service of the service o bogus' business addresses where they of fraud after previously admitting a

Carter also used various surnames of a suspended sentence from October



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IN MY VIEW

Confession over my choice on TV viewing

WHILE searching through the multitude of television channels looking for anything, just anything that might be vaguely palatable to watch. I stumbled across a repeat of a Channel 4 series called It Was Alright In the 70s. Now I know I'm probably a little behind

the curve on this one, but I really don't watch much TV these days. There's just too many talent shows, celebrities-making-idiots-of-themselves shows chat shows and never-ending gritty crime dra-mas about Sarah Lancashire mumbling into a shaky camera to make it worth-

Anyway, for those not familiar with the format, It Was Alright in the 70s centres around paid-up members of the liberal elite, plus a handful of comedians no-one has ever heard of wearing loud shirts, repeatedly putting their head in their hands at the content of television made in the 1970s. The Sweeney, Carry On Films, Top of the Pops, all came in for a good kick-ing, along with various public safety in-formation films which might be offensive to Generation Snowflake. Even an ATV news interview with Dave Hill from Slade

was thrown in for some reason.

What amused me though is what the likely motives were of those who watched the show. Now I don't doubt for one moment that the people behind the programme thought it would be to hear David Aaronovitch's observations on how much more enlightened society has be-come compared to 40-odd years ago. But I can't help but think most just tuned in to see a few clips from Confessions of a Window Cleaner.

RANK stupidity. Not fair to the fans. Nearly a fortnight later the tabloids are still having a field day about the escapades of West Bromwich Albion stars in Barcelona. What nobody has so far revaled is the make of the taxi they are alleged to have snaffled. Was it a Ford? Good chance, or maybe a Peugeot, WW, or Aufil !!! wasnet they have it was nother than the start was nother than the start was nother than the start was not the start of the or Audi. I'll wager though that it was nothing with the Mercedes badge. No way. That's the one with three points.

000

DONALD Trump has come in for stick for suggesting teachers should get paid extra if they carry pistols to protect pupils from oun maniacs.

Thankfully, that is probably not necessary here but it has given me an idea on tackling the menace of anti-social behaviour, Equip dinner ladies with Tasers, the little darlings will think twice about drop-ping litter and doing graffiti.

Problem with America is too many guns not too few



Jeremy Corbyn – I don't believe for a moment that he was any sort of spy



Detective Kip Glaspie (Carey Mulligan) a



Haunted for days on end by name of Australian jockey, Scobie Breasley

Arming teachers is not the answer

BEFORE the bodies had even been buried after the Florida school massacre, some gun enthusiasts were claiming that, if only the teachers had been armed, the gunman could have been killed before he killed anyone. What hope can there be for people who genuinely believe that the problem is not that America has too many guns (last count about 300 million), but too few? And, hell, why stop with arming the teachers? The kids can only be truly safe when every dinner lady has a .44 Magnum. God Bless America.

DID we all notice in Endeavour (ITV) that Morse visited a motel called Crossroads in a village called Kings Oak and the cleaner was a Mrs T? Next week: mass murder in the village of Trumpton – six firemen and a miller in the frame.

UNDERSTANDING weather-related head-lines. "Beast from the East brings Siberian snow-bomb nightmare" = It will be a tad chilly

MATHS for beginners. A reader reports buying one item for $\mathfrak{L}5$ and another for $\mathfrak{L}4$. The shop assistant used a calculator to add them up.

ON Wednesday the BBC finally reported on On weonescay the Bbz. Infally reported on the Corbyn/spy story. Even so, cynics will have noticed that the theme of Thought for the Day on the Today programme (Radio 4) was Sience is Golden. For me, the most disappointing moment of the Beeb's non-coverage of the story came when the Voice of America website select." WAR Patitatic Labour Loader a Company asked: "Was Britain's Labour Leader a Com-munist Spy?" Was anyone else reminded of

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



NO surprises in this week's report in the Lancet linking heavy drinking with dementia; a pickcet inking neavy drinking with dementia; a pick-led brain is never going to be a healthy brain. On the other hand, another report by scientists in California, also this week, suggests a couple of glasses of wine a day will help you live to see 90. I am reminded of a Scottish colleague who said this about whisky: "If we could just figure out how not to drink too little or too much, we'd live for ever." Research continues.

THE trouble with names is that they can become earworms. You hear them once and then cannot get them out of your mind. I recall one time when I was haunted for days on end by an Australian jockey. Scobie Breasley. Scobie Breasley. Scobie Breasley. Dammit. . . .

WHILE it's good to see academics support-

ing Briefings for Brexit, a website devoted to the unsung (some would say stifled) benefits of quitting the EU, they face an uphill battle. For this is not merely an argument about politics, economics or any other lecture-theatre subject. It goes deep into the human spirit. Just as some infants depend on a comfort blanket, so some adults need a catastrophe blanket. Their natural mind-set is to believe they are on the brink of Armageddon. I bet some of those panicking about Brexit were the ones who, over the years have made themselves sick with worry about nuclear annihilation, DDT poisoning, the coming ice age (remember that?), global warming and, in the past few months, plastic pollution. The hugely intelligent men and women behind Briefings for Brexit may make a good case for quitting. But they will never turn pessimists into

EVERY fictional detective needs a back story. and the wackier the better. So we see tecs in wheelchairs or with a drink problem, suffering opium addiction, heavily pregnant, drop-dead glam or plump and mursy, or even haunted by a dead partner. In the new BBC cop series Collateral, Detective Kip Glaspie (Carey Mulligan) turns out to have been a former Olympic pole vaulter before joining the police. Now, that's original. Goodness only knows how they'll work pole-vaulting into a storyline but I wouldn't mind betting that the final episode involves a chase, a high fence and a clothes prop. Why do I keep thinking of Norman Wisdom?

TALKING POINT

Cheers! Thank you for the music

I WONDER how many people realise how blessed we are with live music venues in this area. I must admit it was not something I had actually considered until the

other night.

We were at the Robin 2 in Bilston, a venue we love, to see the tribute group Jean Genie. We had seen them before. but always a testement to how good an act is if you want to see them again – and

Anyway I digress, when we were there watching the group a lovely lady next to me commented: "We are so lucky to have such music venues close at hand."

I thought of her words and yes she was right. Whatever your musical tastes there is something to suit. From jazz, rock, folk and soul, we are blessed.

and soul, we are blessed.

I spoke to colleagues and they all reeled off groups they had seen at Wolverhampton's Civic and Slade Rooms over the years. The Civic has been closed for a refurb—and is now not due to reopen for some time—but has enjoyed a wealth of famous names over the years.

In its absence they are yelenty of pulse.

In its absence there are plenty of pubs around which give an audience to up-and-coming local bands. Nothing better then sitting in the pub, drink in hand, and listening to live music. Some may moan that they can't hear each other speak – easy answer to that, find somewhere else

Colleagues rattled off a number of venues that they have enjoyed over the years. Such as The Trumpet in Bilston, the nickname for The Royal Exchange. Jazz started in the late 50s-early 60s and can still be heard these days on a 'paywhat-you-like' basis.

Over to Aldridge and The Arena which

Over to Aldridge and The Arena which holds live performances, covering the decades from the 1960s through to the present day and Cannock where regulars at The Station can enjoy live music. In Wolverhampton smaller venues include The Slade Rooms, which replaced the much-missed Little Civic, and The Newhampton Arts Centre which hosts to and comping incline stock suffice and big up-and-coming indie rock outfits and big names from the folk circuit.

Down the road and Birmingham of-

fers a variety of gigs, ranging from the mega-stars at Birmingham and Genting Arenas, to an array of acts in the multiple rooms at the O2 Academy and Institute.

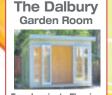
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So get out there – forget the chat and enjoy some of this fantastic music!

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Made to Measure

This is hardly surprising since Bir-mingham undoubtedly made a lot of money from the participants.

The countless businesses, residents and visitors to the Black Country, Staffordshire and Worcestershire who suffered financial loss, or whose day was ruined by the associated road closures, would undoubtedly disagree.

Second class bus

service

AM I the only one who be-lieves we receive a second class bus service on the 120 route, especially between Oldbury interchange and

adley. I have complained to the

Yesterday afternoon, the

120 was due in three min-utes, then five then eight at this stop. The mangers must

be aware of the problem and only began answering my complaints with brief writ-

ten replies after I stated I may contact my MP or Andy

Street.
When I lived in Hale-

sowen, just over two years ago, the 9 bus to Stour-bridge was rarely late. Some of us won't tolerate

this shoddy service indefi-

MRS MARY MARLOW Darbys Hill Road

bus company on numerous

After last year's event, I was told by

In particular, its environmental imact would be interesting to see.

Apart from 15,000 cyclists travelling

to and from Birmingham, a fleet of vehicles went out to deliver and collect the road-closure warning signs, then all the cones and barriers, followed by marshals driving out to enforce road closures on the day.

For an event claiming to support the

green credentials of cycling, its carbon

would be completed. I hope the results huge mileage that must have been covered by unfortunate people attempting to bypass the web of closed roads.

If Birmingham Council and the organisers wish to make Velo Birmingham a regular event, then let them keep it within Birmingham so that its disruption falls on Birmingham ratepayers and everyone else can get on with their lives without interference.

DAVID ANSCOMBE Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso. co.uk. If you are unhap-py with the accuracy of a



story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

bus company on numerous occasions. Most weeks, they are late, often leave bus stops early (City Road/Portway Hill) and even their app on mobiles often delivers the wrong times. Yesterday afternoon the Thank you to nurse for help at roadside

ON February 16, at approximately 3.30pm, my husband was forced to stop his car whilst driving in Cot Lane, Wordsley, due to the fact I was feeling extremely ill.

I exited the car and was doubled over with pain, was also violently sick. In my distress, I noticed another car had pulled up behind my husband's car. A woman in a nurse's uniform exited the car and came over and gave me assistance and advice. It was not a pleasant situation for her to be in and there was no obligation for her to act. I would like to offer, on behalf of myself and my husband, our deepest gratitude and thanks for her unsolicited help and kindness.

JANET BAYLISS

Time to get tough on homeless?

WHEN I was a youngster many years ago, it was a de light to go shopping around Dudley town with my moth-

There were all the top shops and also some lovely eating places where you could sample our local cui-

Turn forward the years and what do we have now?

No top shops but lots of charity shops, pound shops, bookies and, most of all, boarded-up shops, as well as

run-down shops.

I also notice rubbish dumped in the main High Street along with bedding material strewn all around the town, also taking over many shop doorways

Is it not time that the council and police get tough on the homeless people tak ing over the doorways and move them on from our poor, unrecognisable town?
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their best, would never dream of taking my pup anywhere else. The team ask on your arrival how you would like your fur baby cut and how long or short you wanted them cut, they are so friendly to talk to and very welcoming. Well done Gary and team. Chip loves you all. The best, most trustworthy place to send my two boys for daycare...

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THE original Midland Metro tram

THE original Midland Metro tram fleet has been sold for scrap – but two survivors are set for a new journey. Thirteen Ansaldo T69 trams have been sold for £12,000 via an e-auction by Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), part of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

However two from the fleet of 15 put up for sale have been found new homes. The first, Tram 7, has been do-

nomes. The first, Fram 1, has been do-nated to UK Tram, the British tram industry body. The other, Tram 11, has been do-nated to Birmingham Museum. Tram 11 was repainted in the old Birming-

ham Corporation colours in 2013 to mark the 60th anniversary of the final tram running in the city.It is named after Councillor Theresa Stewart, the

former leader of Birmingham City

Paedophiles and rapists on se — two for a decade

MORE than 50 convicted sex offenders from across the West Midlands are at large - including two who have now been on the run for more than a decade, according to official police

Forces in the West Midlands, Staffordshire and West Mercia told our sister daily, the Express & Star, they do not know the whereabouts of 55 sex offenders. The figures include paedophiles and rapists and show the region has the second highest

number of missing sex offenders in England.

Staffordshire Police has lost track of five sex offenders, while West Mid-lands Police said 46 had gone missing,

with five going on the run since the start of this year.

West Mercia Police and Warwickshire Police said four were at large, including one who has been missing for 11 years. West Midlands Police are also trying to track down a sex of are also trying to track down a sex offender who disappeared in 2006.

Concerns

The figures, released under the Freedom of Information Act, have prompted concerns over child safety, with politicians on all sides urging police to redouble their efforts to snare registered sex offenders.

West Midlands Police refused to

name those missing, insisting that doing so would 'breach a third party's

doing so would 'breach a third party's data protection rights'.
Chief Inspector Nicola Court from West Midlands Police Integrated Offender Management Unit, said investigations were in place to trace all 46 missing offenders. Staffordshire Police said investigations were 'in place' to trace 'any individual that goes missing or doesn't comply with their reporting requirements'.

Spitfire and Hurricane to star at show



Second World War fighter aircraft, including a Spitfire and Hurricane, are the latest aircraft added to the list of attractions

ICONIC Second World War fighter aircraft, including a Spitfire and Hurricane, are the latest aircraft added to the list of attractions for this year's

the list of attractions for this year's RAF Cosford Air Show.

Visitors to the event on June 10, which celebrates 100 years since the formation of the Royal Air Force, will witness aerial displays from an assortment of historic aircraft.

Organisers have announced that a rare Mk 1a version of the Superma-

rine Spitfire would be performing in the flying display, a first for the RAF Cosford Air Show.

This particular Spitfire, known by its registration N3200, fought during the Battle of France in 1940.

It was tasked to provide air support for the evacuation of Dunkirk. During combat with German fighters, N320 was hit by a German aircraft and forced to land on the beach at Sangatte, and the pilot taken as a pris-

oner of war. The Spitfire remained on the beach, slowly buried in the sand, until 1986. The airframe was returned to the UK in 2000 and after a lengthy

to the UK in 2000 and after a lengthy restoration flew again in 2014. Spitfire N3200 recently starred in Christopher Nolan's critically acclaimed film Dunkirk thus repeating the true history of this aircraft. It has been confirmed that a genuine Battle of Britain veteran Hawker Hursing and he would be recent sirkful.

ricane would be present airfield.

Police will work with vigilantes to catch perverts

OFFICERS will work with so-called paedophile hunters because any other move would 'lose in the court of pub-

lic opinion', a police boss has said.

West Midlands Police's Deputy Chief Constable Louisa Rolfe made the announcement at the force's po-licing and crime strategic panel this week, while responding to a question asked over the vigilante groups.

It follows comments from the UK's lead police officer on child protection, Chief Constable Simon Bailey, who said forces would potentially work with the groups while also encouraging them to stop operating.

More than 44 per cent of cases of meeting a child following sexual grooming used vigilante group evidence in 2016, compared with 11 per cent two years before.

Ms Rolfe said: "We work very carefully adhere to the national guidelines set by Simon Bailey, national lead for set by Sinion baney, nacional read uchild abuse investigations. But we're also mindful of losing in the court of public opinion if we decide we can't work with individuals who are going out of their way to identify those who may be putting children at risk.

"We will always want to hear from people who believe they have identi-fied something but what we don't do is rely on them to undertake the investigations themselves.

"We work very carefully but we cer-tainly don't reject or turn away people who are coming forward with information, well intentioned, that might enable us to protect victims and bring offenders to justice," she said.

Vigilante groups often trap suspected paedophiles by pretending to be a child online, before arranging to meet in a public place. The police are then called.

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The lorry is pictured being engulfed by flames as fire-fighters battle to bring the blaze on the M5 under control $\,$

A LORRY burst into flames on the M5 leaving motorists facing up to two-miles of tailbacks near Halesowen.

Acrid smoke billowed across the carriageway as flames

Acrid smoke billowed across the carriageway as flames shot up from the stricken truck.

The fire happened on the M5 southbound between junction three at Halesowen and junction four at Lydiate Ash for north Bromsgrove. Crews from both Hereford and Worcester and West Midlands fire services were called at around 6.15am on Friday. All lanes on the southbound side were closed while traffic queued on the northbound carriageway. There of the Midways Friday aboved flower riageway. Images from Highways England showed flames shooting into the sky.

No-one was injured and the M5 was reopened south-

bound between junction three and junction four at around 10:45am. But two of the three lanes remained closed for recovery teams to dismantle the HGV. Delays were also reported on the A456 Manor Way in Halesowen as a result.

of town is selected for new homes

edge of the Dudley borough after the area was identified as a 'prime location' to help

meet a housing shortfall.

Land near Stourbridge has been included as one of the preferred sites in a report assessing where tens of thousands of properties will be built over the

next 20 years to meet the needs of the rising Midlands population.

An 'urban extension' could be created, providing between 1,500 and 7,500 homes, according to the re-

Housing bosses are coming under pressure to commit to sites for new developments.

Premium

Land needs to be found for more than 20,000 homes to be built by 2036 and, with space at a premium in densely populated areas such as Birmingham and Wolverhampton, officials have had to look further afield.

A report on the Greater Birmingham Housing Mar-ket Area also said there

By Richard Guttridge

was an onus on all councils across the West Midlands to 'work together to meet housing needs'. The site south of Dudley is one four to be identified

for 'urban extensions', with the others being in Stafford-shire – north of Penkridge, east of Lichfield and north of Tamworth.

Finer details of where the site would be have not yet been revealed.

been revealed.
Stourbridge councillor
Nicolas Barlow said he
would be opposed to plans
that threatened green belt.
He said: "I would be dis-

appointed to have new hous-ing built on green belt when we know we have got significant brownfield sites that are absolutely no use at all.



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Thursday, March 1, 2018

Man used freezer to hide illegal tobacco

A SHOPKEEPER who hid illegal tobacco inside a freezer has been ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work. Sywash Mashkhaty, owner of European Food Express in

Sywash Mashkhaty, owner of European Food Express in Dudley High Street, pleaded guilty to seven offences. Wolverhampton Magistrates Court heard that in August 2016 trading standards officers found 1,765 packets of cigarettes and tobacco without health warnings, which had evaded excise duty. Five brands were found to be counterfeit. The duty evaded was estimated at more than £10,000. Mashkhaty, 26, of Ryland Street, Birmingham, pleaded guilty to an offence under Tobacco and Related Products Regulations relating to the lack of health warnings, five offences under the Trade Marks Act relating to counterfeit products and one under the Proceeds of Crime Act in respect of property which had evaded duty. He was given a 12-month community order with 150 hours of unpaid work, £1,472 costs and a victim surcharge of £85.

work, £1,472 costs and a victim surcharge of £85. Mashkhaty's employee and previous owner of the business Najibullah Asakzai, 24, pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting the offences. Asakzai, of Haig Road, Dudley, received a 12-month community order and a 12-month night curfew and was ordered to pay £1,652 costs and a victim surcharge of £85.The tobacco was destroyed.

Cannabis plants are found by police raid



It's like a jungle... police in major cannabis plant haul

ALMOST 200 cannabis plants were discovered following a police raid on an address in Dudley.

The plants were found at a property in the Dixon Green area, near Kates Hill, after police acted on intelligence provided by the community.

Officers shared the details of the find on social media site Twitter, posting: "198 Cannabis plants seized from address in Dixons Green area today by Sgt Turner and the NHT, with @FSU_WMP Dudley A unit "Local intelligence from members of the public really

does help make these things possible so please report any suspicious activity. The find was welcomed by St Thomas's ward councillor

Shaukat Ali.

He said: "The police have been doing a really good job.
They have come across a number of cannabis plants and

found and destroyed them.

'Cannabis has a massive impact on the education of young people and ruins lives.

Police in witness appeal after crash

POLICE have launched an appeal for witnesses after a

West Mercia Police has appealed for people to come forward if they witnesses the accident near Hunnington last month, which saw two people taken to hospital.

A Vauxhall Vectra and a Honda CR-V were involved in a collision near the Bluebird Park on Bromsgrove Road.
The driver of the Honda, a man in his 40s, sustained serious head injuries. Police said the driver of the Vectra,

serious nead nightes. Folice said the driver of new vectors, a woman in her 50s, sustained minor injuries. The crash occurred at around 7pm on Monday February 19.

Investigating officers are now looking to speak to anyone who witnessed the crash, as well as the occupants of a vehicle which was believed to have been travelling in front

of the Vectra.

Call West Mercia Police on the non-emergency number 101, quoting incident reference 560S of February 19.

£39m increase in profits for Scheme to shame 11 **Merry Hill centre owner Intu**

PRE-TAX profits for the own-ers of Merry Hill shopping up from £594.3m to £616m and net ers of Merry Hill shopping centre rose by nearly £40 million last year.

Intu Properties, the owners of intu Merry Hill, saw its pre-tax profits rise by £38.9m from £188.3m in 2016 to

rental income rising from £447m to £460m. After tax profits were up from £172m to £203m helped by a £47m revaluation surplus on its estate.

Intu invested £184m in the UK in 2017 and has a significant im-£227.2m. provement project underway at intu
The shopping centres group, which
is in the midst of a merger with In total it is investing £100m in the

1,671,000 sq ft centre, which has 217 stores, including £70m for improving

stores, including £70m for improving the leisure provision to include a cinema and restaurants.

It will be spending £70m of the £100m up to 2020.

Intu's asset management director Julian Wilkinson said the spending would also now include upgrading the exterior of the Brierley Hill shopping centre including re-cladding. centre including re-cladding

the rogue landlords ROGUE landlords will be named and shamed under

a new rating system aimed at improving properties in Sandwell.

Private landlords will get a rating of between zero and

Private landlords will get a rating of between zero and five. It comes amid rising concerns about the conditions some poorer families are living in.

Housing chiefs in Sandwell are keen to ensure landlords are doing all they can to ensure rented homes are at a suitable standard. Those landlords with a rating of three or more will be promoted on a council-managed website. A landlord who is given a zero rating will be someone who has not 'met statutory standards or is owned by a landlord who has been convicted of housing-related offences'.



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TV comics headline new festival at pub venue

MOST will know him as The Sinnerman on ITV teatime quiz show The Chase.

But this summer comedy fans will get the chance to see Paul Sinha in an entirely different

light, as a stand-up comedian.
The Sinnerman will appear along-side TV comic Seann Walsh, as well as 11 other professional comedy acts, as part of the Fitz Fest in Stourbridge this June.

The inaugural comedy festival at Katie Fitzgerald's pub in Wollaston, where a marquee has become a popular venue for some of the nation's top

iar venue for some of the nation's top up-and-coming comics, is being held from June 7 to 10.

Sinha will headline the festival's opening night and Walsh, who has appeared on Live At The Apollo and Mock The Week, will top the bill on the closing night. the closing night.

Housewife

The two other headline slots will be filled by Barbara Nice, the housewife character creation of Phoenix Nights star Janice Connolly, and popular Black Country comic Jonny Cole. They will headline Friday and Saturday

night respectively.

The four-day extravaganza is being put on by organisers of the pub's monthly award-winning Fitz of Laugh-

ter Comedy Club.

Dudley comic Wayne Beese, who is resident compere at the club, said: "We're really excited about this. "I've gigged recently with both Paul Sinha and Seann Walsh and both were world class, they really are comics at the top of their game.

"They normally play on the big stages so this is a rare chance to see them in a really intimate 100-seater venue on your doorstep.



Paul Sinha from The Chase

"Barbara and Jonny are two of the most popular acts we've had here since we started. When we put them on they always sell out and quickly, and that's because they are superb comics as well who know how to put on a show.

"On top of those four, we've got a really good mix of comics supporting them, from seasoned circuit professionals to hotly-tipped up and comers.
"They will be four amazing nights.

and if we can fill the marquee and get it rocking for the whole weekend then



Seann Walsh from Mock The Week

who knows, it could become an annual

thing."

The comedy club has been running for nearly four years and put on a host of star stand-up names including Joe Lycett, Tom Stade, Hal Cruttenden and Gary Delaney.

Tickets for Fitz Fest cost £15 per show plus booking fees with spei-cal offers available for those buying weekend tickets. Details and tickets are available from www.skiddle com/e/13150821

For these patients our procedures have been life changing. Could this be what you need in 2018?



Jacky Standish TTRACTIVE, confident and with a contagious

Alaugh - that's professional chef, Jacky Standish. Looking younger than her 57 years, Jacky has recently drawn up an unusual "bucket list", though she's quick to point out: "I'm not dying."

For Jacky, who was so ashamed of her teeth she walked her dog at 5am to avoid meeting people, clever dentistry at North Street has marked a new life chapter, punctuated with a list of the all places she's only dreamed of

The former chef and house manager at Hagley Hall has undergone a major transformation after gum disease ruined her smile, confidence and her ability to chew

properly.

Now, with four implants retaining an upper overdenture and a partial lower traditional prosthetic, she's thrilled with her new look. "My jaw is sore from smiling so much. No-one would ever know they are not my natural teeth," she says.



imagined it would take a lifetime's search before finding the answer in Dudley.
Even a trip as a dental tourist to Budapest failed to help

the 82-year-old. After a lifetime of denture troubles, it was during a vis-

it to a friend at Wolverhampton she found fresh hope in a newspaper article. For eight years the former Queen's Household domestic kept the cutting about the work of Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS Eng GDC108353.

"I read it over and over again, then one day booked an

appointment," she recalls.
"I could never bite an apple – the bottom denture was all over the place – but the day I had my new dentures I went out and had a steak. Steven has done for me what no other dentist has. It's been a long time coming. I'm so grateful that I don't have to put my hand over my mouth



MEETING Vicki Ball is all about the smiles – lots of them and she's gushing with the praise about

A retired community midwife, who was based in Wordsley, the bubbly 60-something-year-old is quick to affirm: "I love my new teeth."

Adding, "you can't tell they're not my own," Vicki admits her smile has not always been her favourite at-

"I'd grown tired of living my life around my uncomfortable dentures.

I never really stopped going out, but when I did, I was always thinking ahead where I could go to take my teeth out." Vicki's treatment included two implants to stabilise a lower prosthetic and the prescribing of high quality, traditional upper dentures to help support facial features.

"My husband, Terry, couldn't believe they were so good. Not to have to keep thinking about my teeth when I'm out is such a relief," she says



John Clews

JOHN Clews is sharply focussed on why he's agreed to do this interview: "I want to give people

like me hope," he declares.

The skilled die-sinker knows a thing or two about clever engineering – and with multiple failing teeth, instinctively realised that he too required the kind of skill that sets him apart as an experienced factory problem-

For years he endured daily toothache, but crippled by fear of the dentist, avoided treatment until he could no longer tolerate the problems.

'I came here [North Street] and they promised to restore my smile, but they gave me back my life," he adds. After having six implants in his upper jaw to support a

complete arch of teeth and other remedial work, John is now able to live his life without having to worry about his teeth

And the dental phobia? "All staff were fantastic, I felt

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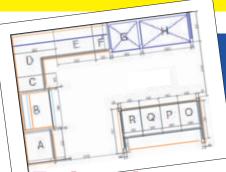
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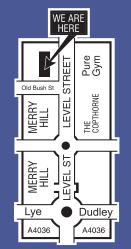
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Express & Star

Award for cabbie who snared hammer thug



Taxi driver Muhammad Ilyas, from Dudley, is presented with the Good Citizen's Award by Chief Constable Dave Thompson after his brave actions helped catch a violent criminal

A BRAVE taxi driver who helped with her – Mr Ilyas joined another officers arrest a violent robber who man in following the attacker to enattacked a pregnant woman with a hammer in Dudley has received a

West Midlands Police award. Muhammad Ilyas was driving by when he saw the horror attack take place, which left the woman - aged in her 30s – with a fractured skull at

As a fellow passer-by went to

sure he didn't escape justice.

Officers arrived promptly and

arrested the 49-year-old attacker when it emerged he had tried to snatch an elderly woman's handbag just minutes before the hammer attack, which took place on October 28, 2016. The attacker went on to be jailed for a minimum of 10 years at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Mr Ilyas, aged 25, from Dudley, has been awarded a Chief Constable's Good Citizen's Award in recognition of his bravery and public-spirited actions in helping to catch the vicious robber.

This award was handed over to Mr Ilyas by Chief Constable Dave Thompson during an awards ceremony at the West Midlands Police force's Tally Ho! base in Edgbaston.

Off-duty firefighter leads volcano rescue

into the crater of an active volcano was carried to safety in a dramatic rescue operation co-ordinated by a back-packing firefighter from Birmingham.

John Conway, who was on holiday on the Indonesian island of Bali, was on an early-morning trek to the top of Mount Batur when the drama un-

of Mount Batur when the drama unfolded.

The firefighter, aged 33, was recovering from the ascent and preparing to enjoy the spectacular views when he heard that the woman had fallen from a viewing platform into the crater.

Speaking from the island, he said: "I explained I was a firefighter and trauma-trained, and directed down into the crater where there were about four or five other people already with the woman. She was clearly in a very bad way. She was bleeding a lot and turning blue. turning blue.

Tissues

"I found out there was no air ambulance and the first aid supplies were really poor. All I had to use were some wet wipes, tissues and tape." He worked for around 30 minutes

to stem the woman's bleeding before being joined in the crater by a nurse who was also on the trek. He also asked people to take off their shirts and coats to keep the casualty warm, and kept pinching her arm to keep her

Trekkers then helped to form a human chain, using a stretcher fetched from further down the volcano to raise the injured woman out of the crater. They then faced a race against time to get the patient to an ambulance at the bottom of the 5,600ft volcano, taking it in turns in groups to carry her.



Birmingham firefighter John Conway Mount Batur on Bali, part of Indonesia



Trekkers help to carry the injured woman down the volcano

Trekkers help to carry the injur Mr Conway said: "She was obviously in severe pain and the nurse and I were worried she might have spinal injuries but she never once complained." After five hours, they reached the ambulance – an estate car with just a driver and no paramedics – and learned that the nearest hospital was another two hours away.

The firefighter, from Highgate Station, accompanied her in the back of the vehicle until they got to the hospital. The woman's injuries included

pital. The woman's injuries included several broken bones and ribs, a frac-tured spine, a serious head injury

and a broken nose. Mr Conway said "Given the state in which we found her, and the extent of her injuries, it's a miracle she survived."

a miracle she survived."
His watch commander Chris Gauntlett said: "I'm not at all surprised to
hear that he did everything he could
to help this young woman. All of our
firefighters are trauma-trained, and John is among those who take part in competitive challenges against other fire stations and brigades to hone their skills. He certainly put those skills into practice and proved that we're never really off duty."

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Stuart Brown added "What we set out to do is to provide quality bathrooms and kitchens at a more affordable cost, buying in higher amounts of stock so we can pass the discounted cost through to our clients, once our customers see our products and compare our costs they are always very pleased at what we offer and are even more overjoyed once they see the quality of our workmanship"

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Up to £100m in equity finance has been committed through the British Business Bank (BBB), with the cash earmarked to accelerate economic growth and promote job creation through the region's small

Ministers say it will broaden the funding options and opportunities available to Midlands firms. It forms part of the Gov-ernment's Midlands Engine Strategy and follows a £120m debt and small business loans funding pot launched last August.

Announcing the funding, Housing Secretary and Ministerial Champion for the Midlands Engine, Sajid Javid, said: "The Midlands Engine already boasts over 14 per cent of the UK's high-growth businesses and its economy is worth more than 6200 hillion £230 billion

Potential

"We want to harness its huge potential and help give small firms across the Midlands that much-needed boost to grow their business. Ensuring every part of the UK can play to its strengths and spread prosperity is central to our Industrial Strategy, and this fund will not only generate jobs to benefit the entire Midlands but, ultimately, the British economy." the British economy."

Patrick Magee, the BBB's chief com-

mercial officer, said: "We believe there is a major opportunity to increase the supply of equity finance in the Midlands."

The funding project is backed by the Eu ropean Union using funding from the European Regional Development Fund.

Talented? Let your Voice do the talking

WANNABE pop stars can put their singing skills to the test when The Voice auditions

skins to the test when I ne voice auditions return to the Black Country.

The TV singing contest's first stage will be held at the Cuban Exchange in Exchange Street, Wolverhampton on on Wednesday (March 7).

Bosses are looking for top talent from across the country

Successful entrants from the Black Country and Staffordshire will be following in the footsteps of Jason Jones, who reached the semi-finals of the last edition of the show.

Wowed

Jason, from Burntwood, works at the RAC Call Centre off the M6 in Wednesbury. He wowed judges with his opening performance of Zayn's Pillowtalk and made it all the way to the final eight before being eliminated.

The Voice's latest advert says: "Do you think you've got what it takes to turn a chair?

"We are on the lookout for incredible singing solo artists and duos for The Voice 2019. If you want your Voice to be heard, come and see us."

People attending the auditions in Wolverhampton are asked to prepare one or two songs with a backing track, an instrument or acapella.

The event is only open for over 18s. To book a slot email bashfunk@gmail.com

Uni drone course is due to take off

DRONE pilot courses are taking off after a university signed a deal to deliver training

over the next two years.

The University of Wolverhampton will be offering one of the first courses of its kind with ex-military aviation personnel offering the training.

The Remote Pilot Certificate SUAS

course, which is Civil Aviation Authority approved, leads to Permission for Commer-cial Operations status.

16£100m fund Companies are eager to book up seats at inaugural Black Country Business Festival

More than 100 events have been confirmed

More than 100 events nave been confirmed for the first Black Country Business Festival taking place from April 23 to May 4. Developed by the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, it aims to help Black Country busi-nesses to make new connections, create new opportunities and learn from each other to help their development.

It is also hoped it will put the region in the

It is also hoped it will put the region in the national spotlight through the wide variety of interesting and exciting events.

Attendance during the fortnight is anticipated to top 7,000, with 15 per cent of these being from outside the region.

Derived the feeting events are being stored.

During the festival, events are being staged

Report by John Corser

by local businesses and will include seminars, lectures, workshops, large trade shows and conferences covering a wide variety of business topics both within the festival's nine key sec-

topics both within the resured series and beyond.

There are events taking place in all corners of the Black Country from prisons, an army reserve centre, theatres and casinos to golf clubs, football stadiums and hotels.

Nearly every event is completely free to attend, but tickets do need to be booked in advance. These are available on the Black

Country Business Festival website on a first

come first served basis.

Business festival sponsor, Talbots Law, is running several events – one of which involves top legal services advisor Mitch Kowalski, who is flying in especially from Canada to speak at 2030 – A Completely New World for Profes-sional Services Firms on April 26.

sional Services Firms on April 26.

Corin Crane, chief executive of the Black
Country Chamber said: "It makes me really
proud that so many Black Country businesses have got on board with the business festival. Over 100 events in our first year is awesome! The programme is looking really comprehen-

The Black Country Business Festival is partnered by the Black Country Chamber of Commerce and DY5 – Dudley's Business and Innovation Enterprise Zone. It is also supported by the following organisations which all understand its importance and relevance and want to contribute to its success: Cox & Plant, Federation of Small Businesses, Ramada Park Hall Hotel, University of Wolverhampton, Tallett Lore, Wolverhampton, Tallett, Lore, Wolverh bots Law, Wolverhampton Racecourse, Casino 36, Express & Star, Midlands in Business and Signal 107.
To book tickets visit www.blackcountrybusi-

nessfestival.com or email hello@blackcountry-businessfestival.com or call 01902 912304.

Book is bostin' effort to preserve spakin' proppa

IT is a bostin' guide to how we spake - the world's first Black Country dictionary has been published.

And the man who has compiled it hopes future generations will study the

language in schools.
The guide has been put together by Steve Edwards, one of the organisers of the Black Country Festival.

It is on sale on Amazon and people can also buy the dictionary at the Black Country Living

Steve, who was born in Brierley Hill and now lives in Dudley, is fighting to keep the

language alive.

The former factory worker has uncovered some rare terms by speaking to older people from across the region.

Some of the terms were on the brink of ex-

Steve said: "A lot of people were getting in touch with me people of the Black Country Festival stuff and saying they wanted a dictionary.

"I grew up in a proper Black Country family so thought I would be able to do it. "The whole country is becoming Londonised and this is a way of trying to save and preserve the Black Country dialect.

Understanding

"We need people to know that we still speak Black Country around here, it's not just the Queen's English."

In order to compile the dictionary Steve In order to compile the dictionary Steve spoke to relatives and pensioners from across the region to double check the words he knew with other people's understanding of them. Steve explained: "I have been speaking to a lot of people to make sure I was getting the words right."

"I also wanted to see if there were any new

asso wanted to see it there were any new words or sayings.

"Most of them I kind of knew because I had grown up with two proper Black Country grandparents so this was something I was brought up with."

The Black Country dialect should be treated as its own converted language within the re-

as its own separate language within the re-gion's schools, Steve said.

He suggested pupils should be taught the language alongside subjects such as French or German.

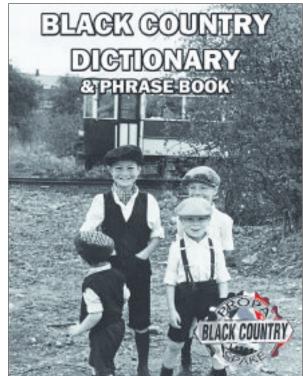
This will give them an insight into their own history and culture, he insisted. He added: "That's how it needs to be looked

at. People say we speak slang and we don't speak properly. "But that's not right – our dialect is actu-

ally derived from early English, it's the original form.

"It is just that we retained it rather than

change it to the Queen's English.
"I think it definitely should be taught in







Black Country Dictionary author Steve Edwards

People can buy the book at the Black Country Living Museum

school, it would be just like teaching French or German.

"It has national and international impor-

tance because it is one of the only surviving original forms of English still being used.
"We need to preserve the language and also

teach it for the future generations as well." The dictionary runs from A to Z – with entries for every letter of the alphabet. There is

also a brief history of the Black Country dialect

and the region as a whole.

Steve, aged 34, said: "In the book the first page tells people about the Black Country and why it is called what it is.
"Then it goes on to our dialect and where it's

derived from, as well as phrases and different words. It is educational because a lot of people don't know these things. It's just how English

"In the book there are the words but also a selection of phrases – all together there's 45 pages in it.'

'Zonked'

The final entry is 'zonked' - meaning tired Other interesting words and phrases include a small stone or a pebble; 'loon' alone; 'clammed' – hungry; 'me babby's blartin' - meaning my baby's crying; or 'wasin'

– throat. A surprising addition was one phrase Steve had not heard until he began researching the book.

the book.

This is 'Ode Ear's Night' – the Black Country version of New Year's Eve.

Steve explained: "Somebody told me that but I wasn't sure if I believed them. But I went

but I wasn't sure if I believed them. But I went up to my nan and asked my father as well and they said the same thing."

People can pick up the dictionary online, at the museum and also at the Black Country T-Shirts shop in Castle Street, Dudley.

Next week it will also go on sale at Dudley Council venues, including the Red House Glass Cone and Dudley Archives.

PROMOTION to the Premier League for Wolves could generate £10 million a year for Wolverhampton's economy, says a football finance expert.
Dr Daniel Plumley, a senior lecturer at Shef-

field Hallam University, whose areas of exper-tise is the economics and finance of professional team sports, says although the main benefac-tors of promotion will be the football club, there are knock-on effects for the city.

"In terms of an exact figure it's difficult to pinpoint but the ballpark estimates are around $\pounds 10m$ across the course of a season," Dr Plum-

ley said.

"That's primarily attributed to out-of-town visitors linked to away fans. Playing in a bigger competition, bigger clubs and more supporters come to the city and spend money on match days, which will benefit local businesses."

As well as generating a feel-good factor

within the city, promotion would also open Wolverhampton to a whole new global audi-

ence, the expert announced.

"If you look at the Premier League as a product and focus on broadcasting, it's distributed to around 200 countries worldwide," he says

"There is certainly a sense of putting a club in a different shop window from an appeal perspective. More will follow Premier League football than they will the Championship."

The club itself would earn a whopping £120m from promotion at a minimum, according to Dr Plumley's calculations. He said: "We're looking at a minimum of £120m based on the current figures. If you take Sunderland from last sea-

son, they earned just shy of £100m from broad-casting revenue alone."
Wolves are currently top of the Champion-ship but the gap between them and the second and third places has been reduced.

The Doc says Duncan was the greatest of them all



Alex Stepney, Graham Williams, Jim Cadman and Tommy Docherty at the Duncan Edwards exhibition at Dudley Archives FOOTBALLING legend Tommy Docherty paid tribute to Duncan Edwards at an exhi-

bition in Dudley on the 60th

anniversary of his death.

The former Wolves and Villa manager said he was delighted to join fellow football veterans Alex Stepney (Manchester United goalkeeper) and Graham Williams (West Bromwich Al-bion) to remember – in his own words - 'the greatest of them all'

what a tragedy it is for his family, his club, for the boy and for the country." The visit came as Dudley Council re-

vealed it is to launch an annual Dun-can Edwards Day on October 1 – the birthday date for the former Manches-

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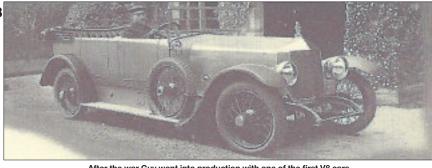


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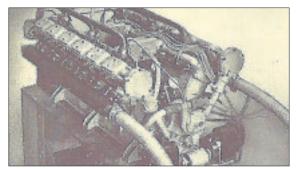


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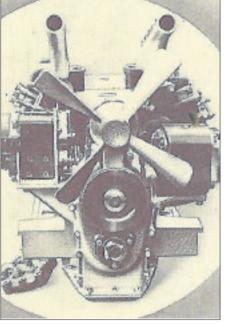








The V12 Guy aero engine



The post War Guy V8 car engine

How Dragonfly orders took massive nosedive

their own V12 aero-engine at the end of the First World War ? It seems a simple question but also seems to be some-

thing of a mystery.
Sydney Guy was Works Manager at the Sunbeam Motor Car Company before the First World War, when they were producing their first V8 and V12 aero en-

On May 30, 1914 he resigned, and on the same day registered a new com-pany, Guy Motors, and built a factory on the other side of town, and by Sep-

tember was producing 30 cwt lorries.

During the War the Ministry of Mu-

During the war the Ministry of Mu-nitions took over the factory with or-ders for military supplies like the fuses for depth charges.

Then in April 1918 Guy received a contract for 12 seven cylinder 150 hp ABC Wasp radial aero engines, and also for one experimental 320

MEMORY LANE

hp 9 cylinder ABC Dragonfly engine. np 9 cylinder ABC Dragonny engine. The Dragonfly, on paper, seemed a war-winning engine, giving high power for only 662 lbs dry weight, and soon the Ministry were ordering it by the thousand from 11 different manu-facturers, and planning a whole pha-lanx of aircraft for it to power.

Experimental

Guy Motors built their first experi mental one in the short time of only 24 mental one in the short time of only 24 days from first machining to test run. With the order for 12 Wasp engines 90 per cent complete, Guy were then told to turn them over for completion to another company and were given an order for 600 of the high priority Dragonflies.

It was here that troubles began as the Dragonfly turned out to be an awful engine. In the air it overheated, with the cylinders often running

started to shake itself to pieces after just a few hours running.

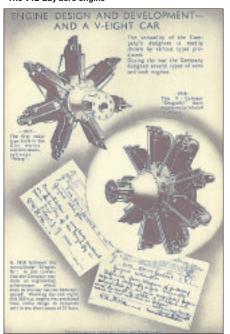
The problems were never fixed and

orders were cancelled wholesale, before Guy produced their first production example.

Now it has been said that at the Now it has been said that at the end of the war Guy had built their own V12 aero engine, and a couple of images of it have surfaced, but at the time no Company was allowed to build an aero-engine without Ministry permission, and there are no records of permission even being sought.

Sydney Guy was not the sort of man who would allow others to dictate to him what he could and could not do. Did he take a look at the awful Drag-onfly and decide he could do better

After the war he quickly went into production with one of the first V8 cars, but what happened to the ae-ro-engine, and have any other details survived beyond a couple of photographs?



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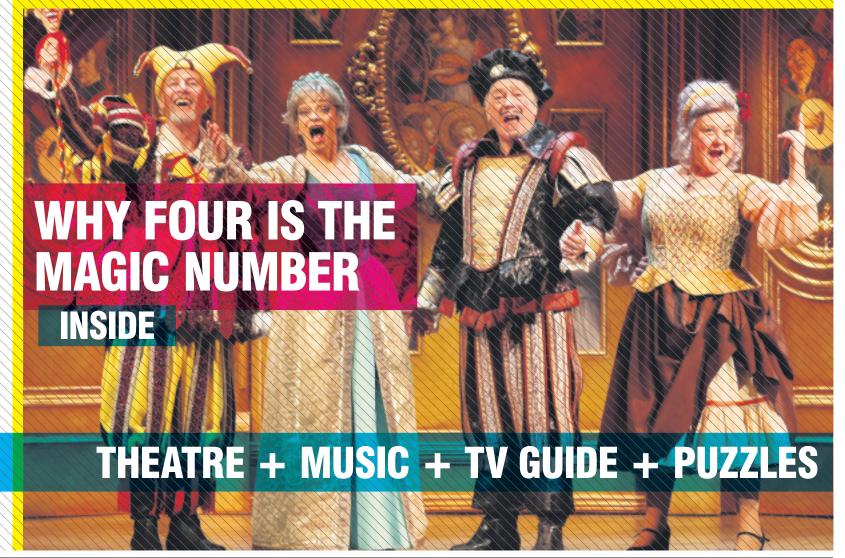
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It's an age-old tale of fun for Quartet

t has an all-star cast. Quartet features Paul Nicholas, Wendi Peters, Sue Holderness and Jeff Rawle and tells the charming tale of four ageing opera singers. The show, which opens at Birmingham's REP on Tuesday and runs until March 10, tells the story of Cecily, Reggie and Wilfred, who reside in a magnificent retirement home in Kent.

The rumour circling the halls is that the home is soon to play host to a new resident. Word is, it's a star. Jean arrives and old rivalries resurface, secrets are revealed and chaos unfolds, but in true theatrical tradition - the show must go on.

Paul Nicholas is best known for his work in The Real Marigold Hotel and Just Good Friends, Wendi Peters starred in Coronation Street and Oh What A Lovely War!, Sue Holderness played Marlene in Only Fools and Horses and The Green Green Grass while Jeff Rawle became a household name in Harry Potter and Drop The Dead Donkey.

Their work in the new revival of the bitter-sweet comedy has dazzled critics. Quartet was created by the Oscarwinning writer Sir Ronald Harwood and is a celebration of the twilight years and the hilarity of growing old disgracefully.

The character who causes the disruption at the Kentish retirement home is played by Sue Holderness, who featured alongside Boycie in Only Fools and Horses.

GENERATION

She says: "My character in Quartet, Jean Horton, was a major star in the world of opera. In her heyday she was known as one of the finest sopranos of her generation. She retired very early, apparently to settle down and spend time with her children.

"We discover during the play that there was rather more

to it than that. She is a diva. She still thinks of herself as a major star and expects all those around her to jump to her every whim. She's really rather a monster – so thrilling to play.

"The four characters are very different and seeing them interacting is great fun. Ronald Harwood is the most wonderful writer. I've been blessed in my career to be offered roles written by some of the very finest writers – Alan Ayckbourn, George Bernard Shaw, Terence Rattigan and, of course, the genius John Sullivan. Ronald Harwood is up there with the best of

She relates to the play because it focuses on the ageing process. "You ask me to give advice about the hilarity of growing old! Much of it isn't hilarious at all. Bits of you start to creak and the memory goes walkabout. My character in this is waiting for a new hip and is in constant pain, which probably accounts for some of her grumpiness. But my advice would simply be to keep going. Walk a lot, eat well and laugh. Laughter really is the best medicine – so come and see Quartet."

them.

Actor Paul Nicholas has been enjoying working with his fellow cast and is happy to be on the road.

"It helps that we're playing old people, other than Wendi who's a child. If you're working with slightly more mature actors they've been there and done it all, so it's a bit more easygoing."

He was looking for a role



that reflected on growing old and was delighted when he stumbled upon Quartet.

"I was looking to do something for an older

"I was looking to do something for an older guy and I came across this play. I thought it was excellent and very well written. It's a very good comment on what it's like to be older, especially as an older performer – the difficulties, the fun, the various moods and things that become apparent when you get older.

"There's one great line 'we don't actually change, I'm still the same person'

It's true, we do basically stay the same. I try to anyway. Every so often you get a job that makes you think 'that's really good', and this is one of those occasions.

"When people come to see it, particularly older people, will recognise things that happen. It sounds awful but it's actually quite funny. As long as you can keep your sense of humour above anything, you're OK. Being old can be very enjoyable and you can still have a lot of fun." Wendi Peters has enjoyed being on the

enjoyed being on the road since leaving Coronation Street, where she played Cilla Battersby-Brown.

"I think it's going to be a lovely tour; we go to really lovely venues. I think it's goin

Being old can be very enjoyable and you can still have a lot of fun

to be a lovely, sedate tour with lots of cups of tea, lots of sightseeing... as well as doing the play in beautiful theatres.

"I saw the film when it first came out and again when we started rehearsals; I was pleasantly surprised at how different they are. The film is beautiful and very gentle.. the play is outright funny!

"We're laughing at bits ourselves, and we had a select audience the other day and were thrilled at how much they were laughing out loud. There probably isn't a page of dialogue that goes by without a big laugh."

Jeff Rawle, meanwhile, thinks the comedy is touching. "It's very funny because the whole point is that they're ageing opera singers who were successful in their day so they're all highly individual and eccentric people, all together in various states of decay. In some ways, they're starting to return to their childhoods and their past has become very important to them.

"I think people living with older parents, or who are getting old themselves, will recognise the traits – but they're dealt with great humour. It's very well written." Andy Richardson

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



n crest of the Waves

the crest of success with tour dates selling out as the My Obsession quartet prepare to play for a full house at Birmingham's O2 Academy 3 tomorrow night (Friday).

This month the Kohl-eyed indie pop outfit formed at Manchester University are more than living up to the 'next big thing' status afforded by the BBC Sound of 2018 listing and NME Under the Radar award. This month they release The Tide, a new track from their forthcoming All The Things I Never Said EP, a follow up to their singles My Obsession and New Year's Eve.

Everything Everything have further refined their iittery angular take on indie rock with fourth album A Fever Dream, again distinctive due to the soaring vocals of Jonathan Higgs, and they will be in concert at the O2 Academy on Saturday.

The Modfather himself, Paul Weller, former The Jam

and Style Council frontman and a solo success for 26 years, is in concert at the Genting Arena tomorrow with songs from across his 40-year career including 13th studio album A Kind Of Revolution. The Strypes support. Then on Saturday the Genting hosts the pride of Ramsbottom, Elbow, as Guy Garvey and co bring their Little Fictions tour with more majestic melancholy

Leeds outfit Hookworms bring their electro-psychpop, as heard on the new Microshift album, to the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath on Sunday and international eight-piece Superorganism, who have released brilliant pop track Everybody Wants To Be Famous, showcase their self-titled debut album at the O2 Institute in Digbeth on Monday.

Gwenno brings her Cornish psychedelic folk to the Hare and Hounds next Thursday (March 8), the same night reactivated synth pop legends Blancmange play the venue's other room

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

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of drinks inside the pub we have now officially opened our very own Gin Shed, offering a great range of premium

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shown on our BIG screen in our beer garden.

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Why not look out for our regular Disco/ Karaoke nights, as well as our live entertainment. Don't miss out for our Family Fun days, every Sunday before



the bank holiday we have a bouncy castle, BBQ and Karaoke which is sure to keep all the family happy!

The Widders also have a FREE function room available, which is ideal for Birthdays, Christenings, Band Practice or even a Strumming night just to name a few. For further details give John a call on 07583 444280.

For further information stay up to date via our Facebook page.

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Great entertainer

THERE was a brilliant moment at The Royal Variety Performance when Brian Conley was standing on stage with his old mate Bradley Walsh.

"I'm going to do an impression," Brian said. "This is Bradley Walsh." He faced away from the audience at the London Palladium and as Bradley looked on, none the wiser, Brian wrapped cellotape around his face so that his nose was squashed and his eyes wrinkled. He turned to face the audience, aped his mate's accent and stood right next to him. "I'm Bradley." The audience

Pokey around in

Retro Americana drawing

on blues and western swing comes to

Institute on Wednesday

hen Missouri's Pokey

₋aFarge makes a rare

Born Andrew Heissle

Birmingham's O2

American sounds

roared. And then he started to jog across the stage. Bradley looked at Brian, jaw dropping somewhere near the floor.

"What are you doing, Brian." "The Chase.

Conley has been entertaining people for 45 years, having got his first paying gig at the age of 12.

During that time, he's made five Royal Variety Performance appearances and been the lead in such musicals as Me and Mv Girl. Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Hairspray, Oliver!. The Music Man. Barnum and Jolson for which he was nominated for an Olivier Award.

He's also won a raft of TV awards and a British Comedy Award.

He's not done badly for a kid who was in the remedial class at school He's on the road again with

his one-man show. It's called Brian Conley – Still The Greatest Entertainer In His Price Range, a typically self-deprecating title.

The show is at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on March 10 and he's added a matinee because the evening show is almost sold out. He will also be at Lichfield Garrick on April 6 and Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on May 13.



Your Chronicle



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a child, LaFarge first caught the eye and ear in the UK when his old time sound and look was showcased on TV by Jools Holland, performing the La La Blues and Drinkin' Whiskey. He has released eight albums, the most recent being Manic Revelations.

Changing wombs with mirth and music Former EastEnders star Cheryl Fergison will join

Birmingham on April 28.

Maureen Nolan, Casualty's Rébecca Wheatley and comedienne Hilary O'Neil in Menopause The Musical at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre – an all-singing all-dancing comedy that's likely to bring you out in a hot flush! The show is set in a department store where four women with seemingly nothing in common meet by chance and make fun of their lives experiencing 'The Change'. The production is even sponsored by a health supplement for ladies of a certain age. Packed with one-liners and lots of classic pop tunes, Menopause The Musical is at the Lichfield Street theatre for one night on Monday. See grandtheatre co.uk or call 01902 429212. It will also be at the New Alexandra Theatre in

by Coach



Piers Morgan's Life Stories (ITV, 9.50pm)

Pamela Anderson

The host interviews former Baywatch star and Playboy centrefold Pamela Anderson who reflects on her career and turbulent personal life. She talks about her first husband Tommy Lee, whom she married following a whirlwind four-day courtship, and discusses the nature of her recent relationship with WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. She also opens up about her role as an animal rights activist, including persuading Vladimir Putin to ban the import of seal products into Russia

BBC₁

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Classic Mary Berry. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Triathlon. 2.45 Cycling. 4.30 Final Score. 5.10 A Question of Sport. (R) 5.40 Celebrity Mastermind. (R)

6.20 Regional Programme

6.25 Pointless Celebrities. Colin Jackson, Roger Black, Rowetta, Tony Mortimer, Anna Ryder Richardson, Kirsten O'Brien and Chesney Hawkes compete in a 1990s-themed edition of the general knowledge quiz.

7.15 All Together Now. Rob Beckett hosts the Grand Final of the crowd-pleasing talent show, as the 10 finalists return to battle it out for the right to claim the £50,000 prize, and the title of champion. Each competitor performs a single each competitor performs a single song, hoping to get as many of the 100-strong panel of judges to join in. Then, the three highest-scoring singers take part in a make-or-break sing-off, performing a brand new song in one last attempt to impress the judges. Last in the sergie.

series.

Casualty. Dylan faces a personal and professional dilemma when two members of his AA group arrive in the ED, and Ethan becomes convinced that Bea is the

becomes convinced that Bea is the author of the Rage in Resus blog. Troy: Fall of a City, The Greeks' grip on the city of Troy tightens, forcing Hector and Paris to embark on a risky mission to enlist he aid of a nearby ally. With only each other for support, the brothers' ordeal tests and strengthens their bond, but when a familiar face tells hetcor the disturbing truth about Paris, the pair's newfound kinship is placed in jeopardy once more. in jeopardy once more. Meanwhile, back in Troy, Helen finally begins to win over Andromache and the people of the city with her generosity, but she remains unaware that Menelaus and Agamemnon have devised an audacious plan to steal her back.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.; National

10.30 Match of the Day.

11.55 Film: My Brother the Devil. (2012) Drama, starring James Floyd and Fady Elsayed. 1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.45 BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Nature's Weirdest Events. (R) 6.25 Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) 6.55 The Pets Factor. 7.15 The Dengineers. 7.45 Absolute Genius: Monster Builds. 8.15 Beyond Bionic. 8.48 Feboth Wars. (R) 9.45 Live Athletics. The World Indoor Championships. Gabby Logap presents coverage of the opening session on the third day of the competition, which takes place at Arena Birmingham. The opening round of heats in the men's 60m and 1500m are due to take place, along with he finals of the women's triple jump and men's shot put. With analysis from Michael Johnson. Denise Lewis, Paula Radcliffe and Colin Jackson, and commentary by Steve Cram. Andrew Conter and Steve Backley. 1.30 Escape to the Continent. (R) 2.30 Me and My Dog: The Utilimate Contest. (R) 3.30 Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby (R) 4.30 Hugh's Wild West. 5.30 Live Athletics. The World Indoor Championships. The World Indoor Championships. The Steve Backley. 1.30 Escape to the evening session on the third day of the competition, which takes place at Arena Birmingham. The schedule includes the finals of the men's 60m, 400m and 800m, as well as the women's 400m and 500m finals. With analysis from Michael Johnson, Denise Lewis, Paula Radcliffe and Colin Jackson, and commentary by Steve Cram. Andrew Cotter and Steve Backley.

9 30 Film: A Little Chans (2014) Film: A Little Chaos. (2014)
Premiere. A Female landscape
designer is 17th-century France
challenges boundaries of class
and gender when she is chosen by
King Louis XIV to create a new
garden for the palace of Versailles.
She becomes romantically
involved with a fellow designer,
whose creative philosophy is the
opposite of hers. Period drama,
starring Kate Winslet, Matthias
Schoenaerts, Stanley Tucci and
Alan Rickman, who also directed.

PSILM: The Helio (2011) An

Alan Hickman, who also directed.

11.20 Film: The Help, (2011) An
aspiring journalist returns to her
Mississippi home in the 1960s
and begins documenting the lives
of black servants working for
wealthy white families. Her project
brings the community's household staff together, but creates staff together, but creates controversy among their employers. Drama based on Kathryn Stocketts novel, starring Emma Stone, Viola Davis, Bryce Dalas Howard and an Oscarwinning Octavia Spencer.

1.40 Civilisations. (R) 2.40 This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. 6.10 The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) 6.35 Dino Dana. (R) 6.56 Super 4. (R) 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.05 Marvels Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) 7.30 Scrambled! Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled! Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled! The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) 7.50 Scrambled! The Powerpuff Girls. (R) 8.10 Scrambled! The Bage! Girls. (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: The Bagel and Beeky Show. (R) 8.30 Scrambled!: Be Cool. Scooby-Dool (R) 9.05 Scrambled!: Be Cool. Scooby-Dool (R) 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 James Martin's Saturday Morning. 11.25 Dancing on Ice. (R) 1.25 ITV News; Weather. 1.30 ITV Rading: Live from Doncaster. Coverage of today's race meetings at Doncaster, Newbury and Kelso. 4.00 Tipping Point. (R) 5.00 The Chase. (R) 6.00 ITV News; Weather. 6.20 Regional Programme: Weather.

6.30 Rejonal Programme; Weather.
6.30 New You've Been Framed! Harry
Hill narrates a comical selection of
mishaps filmed by viewers,
featuring a vlogger who squirts
perfume in her eyes and a runaway
car that wrecks a campsite.

perfulle in le yes and a riumay car that wrecks a campsite.

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The Geordie duo celebrate the 100th edition of their award-winning programme, and put their OBEs to good use as they join a secret service agency staffed by individuals with honours as their latest mystery spoof sketch gets under way. Oscar-winning actor Cuba Gooding Jr is this week's guest amouncer, and Michael Ball and Alfie Boe help out with the End of the Show Show. Plus, Stephen Mulhern gives members of the public in members of the public in
Warrington the chance to win a
cash prize in this week's In for a
Penny, and Scarlett Moffatt has
another huge surprise in store for
an unsuspecting family.

8.30 The Voice UK. The singers who made it through the audition stages face another round of head-to-head performances, as the second night of the Battles phase arrives.

9.50 Piers Morgan's Life Stories. The host interviews former Baywatch star Pamela Anderson, who reflects on her career.

10.45 ITV News: Weather.

11.05 Film: The Fast and the Furious. (2001) Thriller, starring Vin Diesel and Paul Walker.

1.05 Jackpot247. 3.00 Babushka. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) 6.45 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) 7.10 The King of Queens. (R) 7.35 The King of Queens. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Raymond. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier, (R) 10.00 Frasier, (R) 10.00 Frasier, (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.00 The Simpsons. (R) 12.00 The Simpsons. (R) 1.30 Come Dine with Me. (R) 2.30 Coast vs Country. (R) 3.35 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) 4.35 The Scoret Life of the Zoo. (R) 5.35 The Supervet. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Penelope Keith's Coastal
Villages. The actress discovers the
idyllic coastal villages of East Anglia. She travels by train to the Edwardian holiday résort of Weybourne, and goes dredging at Cley next the Sea. She also hears a scandalous take in Stiffkey, and heads to Thorpeness, Suffolk, to visit a village inspired by the tale of Peter Pan. Plus, she takes in the ancient settlement of Dunwich, and ends her journey at Walberswick. Previously seen on More4.

Britain at Luw Tide. Tori Herridge. Edwardian holiday resort of

Previously seen on More4. Britain at Low Tide. Tori Herridge explores more tales of Britain's rich maritime history, this time visiting the banks of the Clyde. In Glasgow, she finds evidence of a busy Iron Age waterway and an enormous wall built to channel the water, illustrating the complex relationship between the city and the river it was built upon. She also discovers an oddly shaped vessel in a boat graveyard that would have been instrumental in constructing the wall.

9.00 Film: 10 Cloverfield Lane. (2016) Premiere, A woman surviv crash, and wakes up to find herself in an underground bunker, belonging to a survivalist who claims that a devastating attack has left the outside world uninhabitable. As his behaviour becomes increasingly stranger, she begins to fear she is being tricked and resolves to discover the truth for herself. Thriller, starring Mary Elizabeth Winstead.

starring Mary Elizabeth Winstead.

1.00 Film: Predator. (1987) Sci-fi
thriller, with Arnold
Schwarzenegger.

1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.
(R) 1.50 The Last Leg. (R) 2.45
Hollyoaks. (R) 4.55 The Question Jury.
(R) 5.50 Superfoods: The Real Story. (R)

CHANNEL 5

SATURDAY'S TV MARCH 3

6.00 Milkshakel 10.10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.40 Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. 11.10 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.10 Police Interceptors. (R) 2.10 Police Interceptors. (R) 2.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) 3.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) 4.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) 5.00 Rich House, Poor

1 Toway. (n) 3.00 ricin House, Poor House. (R)
6.00 The Secret Life of Kittens. Part one of two. Documentary following kittens from birth to 12 months old, revealing how the sights, smells and sounds they experience and the friends they make during this period create findelible impressions and shape their unique personalities. †Cameras capture all the formative moments, including their first exploration of their home environment, their curtain-climbing acrobatics, and the first time they venture out to meet the neighbourhood cats. (R)
7.00 Cruising with Jane McDonald.

7.00 Cruising with Jane McDonald.
The singer heads to Alaska,
America's largest state and home
to some of the most breathtaking scenery on the planet. She take scenery on the planet. She takes a helicopter trip up to an ice field for a dog-sledding adventure, and later witnesses the majesty of the Margery glacier, a 21-mile stretch of ice in the Glacier Bay National Park. On board Holland America's ship Nieuw Amsterdam, Jane goes backstage to meet the cast of the mightly musicals, has a cooking lesson from the executive chef and except bow the roade that most of fa reveals how to make the most of a lazy day in port. Last in the series.

(K)

8.00 The Queen Mary: Cruising with the Royals. Part two of two. Rob Bell examines RMS Queen Mary, the most famous ocean liner ever built and the first merchant naval ship ever to have been launched by a reigning sovereign. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship.
Colin Murray introduces highlights
from the weekend's games in the
Championship, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Reading and Aston Villa v Queens Park Rangers.

10.00 Live Championship Boxing. Josh Taylor v Humberto Soto.

11.30 Football on 5: Goal Rush. 12.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 Cowboy Builders. (R) 4.45 House Doctor. (R)

MNA DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Dark: Nature's Nighttime World
8.00 Masters of the Pacific Coast: The
Tribes of the American Northwest 9.00
Modus 10.30 Promises & Lies: The Story
of UB40 11.30 Top of the Pops: 1985
12.40 The Shires: New Country 1.40
Masters of the Pacific Coast: The Tribes
of the American Northwest 2.40
Promises & Lies: The Story of UB40 3.40
Close

11.25 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night
Takeaway 1.15 Film: Looney Tunes: Back
in Action (2003) 2.25 FYI Daily 2.30
Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action
(2003) 3.00 Film: Nanny McPhee and the
Big Bang (2010) 4.05 FYI Daily 4.10
Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang
(2010) 5.15 Film: Hotel Transylvania
(2012) 6.15 FYI Daily 6.20 Film: Hotel
Transylvania (2012) 7.00 Film: Uncle
Buck (1989) 8.05 FYI Daily 8.10 Film: Uncle
Buck (1989) 9.05 Film: White
House Down (2013) 110.00 FYI Daily
10.05 Film: White House Down (2013)
11.35 Family Guy 12.35 American Dad1
1.30 Ibiza Weekender 2.30 Totally
Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.55
Teleshopping 5.55 ITV2 Nightscreen

1.20 Agatha Christie's Marple 3.25 Film: Columbo: Double Shock (1973) 5.00 Midsomer Murders 11.00 Lewis 1.00 The Good Karma Hospital 1.55 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

ITV4

2. 00 Storage Wars 12.30 Live Darts: UK
Open. Coverage of the second day at the
Butlins Minehead files second. 5.00 Football's
Greatest: Eusebio 5.05 Pawn Stars 7.00
Live Darts: UK Open. Further coverage of
the second day at the Butlins Minehead
Resort. 11.05 Film: Reservoir Dogs
(1992) 12.05 FVI Daily 12.10 Film:
Reservoir Dogs (1992) 1.10 Film:
Reservoir Dogs (1992) 1.10 Minder 2.10
Tommy Cooper 2.40 ITV4 Nightscreen
3.00 Teleshopping
F4

E4
11.20 Film: Stuart Little (1999) 1.00 The
Big Bang Theory 7.00 Film: Men in Black
3 (2012) 9.00 Film: Identity Thief (2013)
11.15 Gogglebox 12.20 Celebs Go Dating:
2.35 Celebs Go Dating: The Finale 3.25
Timeless 4.10 Don't Tell the Bridd Ireland
5.05 How I Met Your Mother

Film4 . 1.00 Field of Dreams (1989) 3.05 Carry On Teacher (1959) 4.50 Morning Glory (2010) 7.00 Tomorrow, When the War Began (2010) 9.00 A Good Day to Die Hard (2013) 10.50 Double Jeopardy (1999) 12.55 The Craft (1996) 3.00 Close

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Strike - Career of Evil (BBC1, 9pm)

Part two of two. Strike goes in search of a murder suspect in several London's strip clubs, but a furious Wardle warns him not to interfere in police business. Robin's relationship hits an alltime low as she considers whether she wants to go through with getting married, while her mother urges her to consider her priorities. She comes to Matthew's aid when the killer sends him a severed thumb, but recklessly turns to Shanker for help behind Strike's back, urging him to take her to a suspect's home.

BBC₁

SUNDAY'S TV MARCH 4

6.00 Breakfast. 7.35 Match of the Day.
(R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00
The Big Questions. 11.00 Regional
Programme. 12.15 Murder, Mystery and
My Family. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather.
1.15 MasterChef. (R) 2.15 MasterChef.
(R) 3.15 MasterChef. (R) 3.45 Money for Nothing. (R) 4.15 Songs of Praise. 4.50 Film: Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa. (2008) Animated comedy sequel.

- 6 05 BBC News
- 6.20 Regional Programme
- 6.30 Countryfile. Helen Skelton Countrylie. Helen Skelton presents a compilation of items from previous episodes on the theme of water from Kielder Water in Northumberland, and also takes a look at how everyday life is shaped by it.
- snaped by it.

 7.30 Hold the Sunset. Mrs Gale gives herself the task of being an unofficial marriage guidance counsellor to Roger and Wendy, while Edith and Phil seize the chance to get away for the weekend.
- Call the Midwife. Barbara's Call the Midwife. Barbara's condition is not improving and she is kept in isolation at the hospital leaving her friends able to do nothing but wait for more news. Dr Turner and Shelagh assist a man being held in a remand home whose wife is pregnant, while Lucille makes some new friends.
- Lucille makes some new friends.

 Strike Career of Evil. Part two of two. Strike goes in search of a murder suspect in London's strip clubs, and Robin's relationship hits an all-time low, especially when the killer sends Matthew a
- 10 OORRC Naws

10.20 Regional Programme

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman review vs the dav's two Premier League fixtures -Manchester City v Chelsea at the Manchester City v Chelsea at the Etihad Stadium and Brighton & Hove Albion v Arsenal at the Amex Stadium. Pep Guardiola's side were looking to extend their lead at the top of the table, and move on step closer to what is looking like a certain title. The Seagulls were hoping to cause an upset against the Gunners, and move away from the releastion places. the relegation places

11.30 Film: Reign of Fire. (2002) Fantasy adventure, starring Fantasy adver Christian Bale

1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.10 BBC News.

6.05 Coast. (R) 6.50 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) 7.15 The Instant Gardener (R) 8.00 Gardeners World. (R) 8.30 Countryfile. (R) 9.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites 11.00 Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) 11.45 Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) 12.15 MOTD Extra. 1.00 Live Cycling. Coverage of day five of the Track World Championships in the Netherlands. 2.45 Live Athletics. The World Indoor Championships.

- 6.00 Back in Time for Tea. A family embarks on a time-travelling embarks on a time-travelling adventure to discover how a post-war revolution in food transformed the British way of life, sampling meals from 1918 to the present day. (R)
- 7.00 The World's Most Extraordinary The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. Award-winning architect Piers Taylor and actress and properly enthusiast Caroline Quentin explore extraordinary homes built in mountain, forest, coastal and underground locations around the world, meeting the owners and architects brave enough to take the challenges on. (R)
- 8.00 Top Gear. The motoring show goes Stateside with a trip to California, where Matt LeBlanc and Chris Harris venture into some of the densest forests in the state to put some off-road vehicles through their paces—and maybe see if there is any truth to the local legends of Bigfoot while they are at it. Returning to the studio, the guys are joined by this week's guest comedian Lee Mack, while Chris takes the McLaren 720S for a spin on the test track and Rory Reid invents the new sport of reverse camera racing. the densest forests in the state to
- racing.

 9.00 Life and Death Row: The Mass Execution. A look at capital punishment through the eyes of young people whose lives have been shaped by it, including interviews from those on death row and their families.
- 10.20 The Mash Report. Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present the satirical and surreal take on the
- 10.50 Top Gear: Extra Gear
- 12.10 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) 1.10 Holby City. (R) 2.10 This Is BBC

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. 6.10 The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) 6.35 Dino Dana. (R) 6.50 Super 4. (R) 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story, (R) 7.05 Marvels Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) 7.30 Scrambled! Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled! Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled! Scrambled! Scrambled! Sen Starbled! 7.36 (R) 8.10 Scrambled! Scrambled! Sen Starbled! Sen Starbled! Scrambled! Scram (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 8.30 Scrambled!: Spy School. 9.05 Scrambled!: Wishfart (R) 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Love Your Garden. (R) 10.00 Peston on Sunday. 11.00 The Voice UK. (R) 12.20 ITV News: Weather 12.30 Art & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. (R) 2.00 What Would Your Kid Do? (R) 3.00 Britain's Brightest Family. (R) 3.30 Tipping Point. (R) 4.30 ITV News; Weather 4.45 Regional Programme; Weather 5.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) 6.00 Dancing on Lee Phillip Schoffield

- Chäse: Celebrify Special. (R)

 6.00 Dancing on Ice. Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby present the semi-final of the skating contest. Only four celebrities remain in the running and only three of them will be going through to next week's grand finale. They must put on a spectacular show to impress judges Christopher Dean, Jayne Torvill, Jason Gardiner and Ashley Banjo, before a final skate-off decides who will be leaving the show.
- 8.00 Endeavour. Morse investigates an Endeavour. Morse investigates ar assassination attempt at an international sporting event, but the case is very quickly closed. While Thursday is determined to walk away, Morse delves deeper, getting drawn into a web of intrigue involving espionage, big business and a dark secret in the heart of the Oxford community. Meanwhile Thursday tares a hile. Thursday faces a moral dilemma as he tries to protect a woman from her violent
- 10.00 ITV News: Weather 10.15 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)
- Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (H)

 11.15 The Martin Lewis Money Show.
 The financial journalist presents
 money-saving tips to help
 consumers cope with the current
 economic climate. (R)
- economic cinimate. (H)
 1.40 100 Year Old Driving School.
 Cameras follow some of Britain's
 oldest drivers as they put
 themselves through the paces of a
 mature driving assessment. (R)
 12.05 Marcella. (R) 1.00 Jackpot247.
 3.00 Take on the Twisters. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 The King of Queens. (R) 6.45 The King of Queens. (R) 7.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Frasier. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 Jamie and Sunday Brunch. 12.30 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) 1.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.55 The Simpsons. (R) 2.25 The Simpsons. (R) 2.55 Film: Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters. (2013) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Logan Lerman. 4.55 Film: Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb. (2014) Fantasy comedy sequel, starring Ben Stiller.

6.40 Channel 4 News.

6.40 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Posth Pawn. High-end nawnbroker James heads to Marbella to appraise a 75ft yacht worth 2550,000. However, he finds the vessel rather tricky to locate. Plus, an aspiring restaurateur seeks to raise £80,000 by selling his Ferrari Spyder, and a large diamond ring that was handed down through the generations gets James hot under the collar. (R)
8.00. Churchill's Secret 4ffair.

the collar. (H)

Churchill's Secret Affair.

Documentary exploring the secret relationship between the prime minister and a woman he met in the South of France during the 1393s. During an important visit to President Roosevelt at the height of the war, he was reunited with his former lover, now stranded in the US and in possession of a portrait that could have a devastating impact during a dangerous period for the nation

9.00 Homeland. A revelation leads to distress for Carrie, while Saul negotiates. Keane and Wellington do not see eye to eye over an important matter. Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin, Linus Roache and

10.05 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the wordsand-numbers quiz, as Jon Richardson and Jayde Adams take on Sean Lock and Joe Wilkinson.

11.05 Lee Mack: Hit the Road Mack. The comedian performs at London's Hammersmith Apollo in a show from his 2014 tour. (R)

12.05 Film: The Haunting. (1999) 2.00 KOTV Boxing Weekly. 2.30 The Supervet. (R) 3.25 Obsessive Compulsive Classive Construction (R) 4.20 Coast vs Country. (R) 5.10 Superfoods: The Real Story. (R)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshakel: Little Princess. 6.10 Milkshakel Monkey. (R) 6.15 Mofy. (R) 6.20 Simon. (R) 6.25 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.30 Paw Partol. (R) 6.45 Thomas & Friends. (R) 6.55 Freman Sam. (R) 7.05 Mily the Little White Van. (R) 7.15 Blaze and the Monster Machines. 7.40 Paw Patrol. (R) 8.00 Nella the Princess Knight. (R) 8.15 Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) 8.35 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.35 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.50 Shimmer and Shine. (R) 9.00 Diply Dragom. (R) 9.15 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.25 Football on 5: The Championship. (R) 10.45 FlA Formula E: Highlights. 11.50 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.50 Film: Wyatt Earp. (1994) Western, starring Kewin Osather. 4.25 Himster 4.25 Himster 4.25 Willestern, Starring Kewin Osather. 4.26 Will Start Shews Update. 5.30 Film: The Dirty Dozen. (1967) Second World Waraction adventure, with Lee Marvin. 5.25 Shews Update. 5.30 Film: The Dirty Dozen. (1967) Concluded.

7.20 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.
Agents try to recover almost
£2,000 owed by the owner of a
bridal shop in London, while
officers in Kent chase over £4,000 of vet fees after two neighbouring dogs got into a fight. (R)

8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.
Agents in central London try to
recover almost Σ1,900 owed in
parking fines, while officers
Stewart and Vic chase over Σ2,200 owed by a scrap yard owner to a shipping company. Finally, Stewart and Vic head to Merseyside to recover over £3,500 owed by a publishing company to an publishing company to an unhappy ex-employee. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 When Award Shows Go Horribly Wrong. Julian Clary narra compilation of disastrous moments at awards show including autocue failures (as well as one act of sabotage courtesy of Michael Barrymore) and wardrobe malfunctions including Madonna's infamous cape disaster. Featuring contributions from the stars who were present, including Samantha Fox's first-hand account of hosting the infamously shambolic 1989 Brit awards.

Brit awards.

11.55 Jo Brand: Secrets of Her Success.
Friends including Ross Noble, Alan
Davies, Meera Syal, Morwenna
Banks, Jimmy Mulville and Ricky
Grover celebrate the former nurse's
30-year career in comedy. (R)
12.55 Cruising with Jane McDonald. (R)
1.05 SuperCasino. 3.10 Cowboy
Builders. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Only Connect 7.30 University
Challenge 8.00 Killer Whales: Beneath
the Surface – Natural World 9.00
Immeshift: Pull Throttle – The Glory Days
of British Motorbikes 10.00 From Ice to
Fire: The Incredible Science of
Temperature 11.00 Conversations –
Shirley Williams 12.00 Killer Whales:
Beneath the Surface – Natural World 1.00
The Mountain That Had to Be Painted
2.00 The Art of France 3.00 From Ice to
Fire: The Incredible Science of
Temperature 4.00 Close Temperature 4.00 Close

ITV2
3.05 Film: The Flintstones (1994) 4.05
FYI Daily 4.10 Film: The Flintstones
(1994) 4.50 Film: Legally Blonde (2001)
5.55 FYI Daily 6.00 Film: Legally Blonde
(2001) 6.45 Film: Jack the Giant Slayer
(2013) 7.50 FYI Daily 7.55 Film: Jack the
Giant Slayer (2013) 9.00 lbiza Weekender
10.00 Family Guy 11.25 American Dad1
12.25 The Cleveland Show 12.50 Film:
Bachelorette (2012) 1.50 FYI Daily 1.55
Film: Bachelorette (2012) 2.30
Teleshopping Teleshoppina

ITV3

11.35 A Touch of Frost 1.50 Agatha
Christie's Marple 4.00 Lewis 6.00 The
Durrells 8.00 Paul O'Grady, For the Love
of Dogs 9.00 Tonight at the London
Palladium 10.00 Film: Chocolat (2000)
12.25 Life of Crime 1.25 Blue Murder
2.40 George and Mildred 3.05 Rising
Damp 3.55 Road to Avonlea

17V4 12.45 Live Darts: UK Open. 5.00 Football's Greatest: Thierry Henry 5.05 Pawn Stars 7.00 Live Darts: UK Open. 11.00 Film: The Keeper (2009) 12.05 FYI Daily 12.10 Film: The Keeper (2009) 12.55 River Monsters 2.00 Tommy Cooper 2.30 ITV4 Nightscreen

F4
11.05 Film: Stuart Little 2 (2002) 12.35
Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 1.00 The
Goldbergs 1.30 The Big Bang Theory:
Superheroes 5.30 Young Sheldon 6.00
The Big Bang Theory 6.30 Film: Captain
America: The First Avenger (2011) 9.00
Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.50 The Big
Bang Theory 11.50 Gogglebox 12.55
Marvel's Agents of SHIELD D 2.40 Timeless
3.25 Rude Tube 3.50 Hollyoaks
Film4

11.00 Dancing at Lughnasa (1998) 1.00 The Jane Austen Book Club (2007) 3.05 Fast Girls (2012) 4.50 Crocodile Dundee (1986) 6.45 The Other Boleyn Girl (2008) 9.00 Fast & Furious 6 (2013) 11.35 The Purge (2013) 1.15 The Principles of Lust (2003) 3.30 Close

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FILM CHOICES

Forbidden Secrets, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A recently divorced woman returns to her family home to begin rebuilding her life, but her stay turns into a nightmare when she has frightening visions of her troubled childhood, during which her mother tried to drown her. Determined to face her fears, she visits the institution where her parent resides, and inadvertently triggers a series of terrifying events. Thriller, starring Kristy Swanson and David Keeley. (2005)

TUESDAY

Bond of Silence, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman searches for answers after her husband is mysteriously murdered while trying to subdue a wild teenage house party on New Year's Eve. However, as she tries to find out the truth, she faces secrecy at every turn from the party-goers and their parents. Drama, starring Kim Raver, Greg Grunberg and Charlie McDermott. (2010)



Memento, BBC1, 11.45pm

An insurance investigator suffers from short-term memory loss after an attack in which his wife was also raped and murdered. Unable to remember events for more than a few minutes, he is determined to track down the killer and relies on copious note-taking and reminders tattooed on his body to aid his mission. Christopher Nolan's thriller, starring Guy Pearce, Carrie-Anne Moss and Mark Boone Jr. (2000)

A Bone to Pick: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery:, Channel 5, 3.20pm

When an amateur sleuth finds a skull hidden in her new home she sets out to discover who the victim was. Whodunit, with Candace Cameron Bure. (2015)

Captain America: The Winter Soldier, BBC1, 11.05pm

The superhuman soldier battles a mysterious cyborg sin as he uncovers a sinister conspiracy. Comic book thriller sequel, starring Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson, Samuel L Jackson, Anthony Mackie and

Lee goes from one disaster to the next in returning sitcom

t has survived some significant personnel changes and no end of critical disdain over the years to become the longest running sitcom currently on British television.

The opening episode of Not Going Out's previous series (its eighth) attracted a whopping 5.52 million viewers, a record for the

And no TV boss in their right mind would dare to utter the words "this is not going out" with those types of viewing figures.

viewing figures.

The sitcom was originally inspired by a sketch in Lee Mack's Bits at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and it was the first British comedy to be filmed in front of a live studio audience that was subsequently broadcast in HD.

The original ideas for the title of the show were Three's a Crowd, Three, and the number of the apartment.

In the pilot, Kate was played by Catherine Tate (Megan Dodds eventually took over), and she had an ex-boyfriend called Colin, who

was a city boy, with stubble and a leather jacket.

Then, at the end of season one, Tim Vine's real-life sister Sonya was considered for the role of Lucy, before it eventually went to Sally

Meanwhile, Katy Wix, who played the dizzy Daisy from series three, was actually never meant to be a

regular.

But despite all these changes
(you may also recall Miranda Hart
starring too for a couple of series),
Mack and Bretton, along with a solid
ensemble cast including Bobby
Ball, Hugh Dennis, Abigail
Cruttenden, Geoffrey Whitehead
and Deborah Grant, have continued
to make Not Going Out's loyal fans
tune in and laugh.

Many critics daimed the show.

Many critics claimed the show was tired and predictable, but it returned in January 2017 with a different setting, and a new lease comedy life.

The timeline had jumped ahead seven years and the will-they-won't-they flat-based comedy had

morphed into a family sitcom

King of the one-liner Lee is now married to Lucy and the show follows the mismatched couple as they navigate the challenges of being parents to three young children.

Tonight, Not Going Out returns with it's ninth run, and we rejoin Lee and Lucy in the anarchic, packed family house with kids Charlie and twin siblings, Benji and Molly.

As if children weren't enough to As it children werent enough to keep the couple crashing from one near-disaster to the next, factor in Lee's lovably feckless father, Frank, and close friends in the form of the world-weary, or more specifically wife-weary, Toby, and his other half, uptight ice-queen Anna.

At least Lucy's more dependable parents are on hand to offer guidance, but we all know what Geoffrey and Wendy make of their daughter's life choices, and more specifically, her wisecracking husband.



PICK OF THE WEEK

Not Going Out, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

MONDAY

The police use the video footage Fatima provided to arrest Mehmet and Bhuran, while Nathan tips off Sam Spence about the arrests. In Westminster, Mars finally faces party leader Deborah Clifford and is given a final chance to toe the line, but his main focus is on his private life. Back at the station, Jack Haley harangues Kip for offering Fatima residency, something she is unable to guarantee. Conclusion of David Hare's crime thriller, starring Carey Mulligan and John Simm. Last in the serie

TUESDAY

The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer

Channel 4, 8pm

If you needed any further proof that The Great British Bake Off is still in rude health following its move to Channel 4, then just look at the stars who have signed up for this five-part run of celebrity specials. Future episodes will see the likes of Alan Carr, Lee Mack and former Desperate Housewife Teri Hatcher attempting to bake up a storm in the name of Stand Up to Cancer, However, the first batch of famous faces to grab their mixing bowls are Spandau Ballet's Martin Kemp, actor and writer Roisin Conaty, veteran

broadcaster Bill Turnbull and comedian Harry Hill. Their first challenge is a bake sale classic cupcakes. But then the competition intensifies with a fiery technical, followed by a demanding showstopper that involves recreating the best day of their lives as a three-dimensional biscuit scene.

WEDNESDAY

One Born Every Minute

Channel 4, 9pm
New series. The award-winning documentary series moves to Birmingham Women's Hospital, following the highs and lows of a new group of soon-to-be parents in the maternity ward. In the first episode, 25-year-old Samantha and her partner Tony, who struggled for years to conceive, return to the ward after losing their first child at 25 weeks. However Samantha's medical history means the birth is not without challenges. Meanwhile, 33-year-old Sharon and 44-year-old Ray come to the hospital expecting their second child together, and Rhiana and her partner Lee hope for another textbook wate birth for the arrival of their

THURSDAY Crufts 2018

Channel 4, 8pm

The world's biggest canine competition got under way today - Clare Balding and Alan Carr kicked off the Channel 4 coverage earlier this afternoon on Crufts Extra. Now Clare, who must surely

be one of the hardest-working presenters on TV is back with continued live coverage of the event, where judging includes the Working and Pastoral groups, and there are highlights of the Flyball and Agility competitions, with the latter celebrating its 40th year at the contest. Plus, there will also be dog stories (not necessarily of the shaggy variety) and chats with the

FRIDAY

The Gadget Show Channel 5, 7pm New series. Ortis Deley and Georgie Nevada to visit the

Vegas. The events boasts upgraded drones upgraded VR headsets, upgraded televisions and a stream of new robots to help around the house. Meanwhile, Jon Bentley joins Craig Charles in a 'versus' challenge to see if cutting-edge tech can put them on a par with professional decorators. Jon and Craig have access to the finest aids that tech has to offer, while the professionals have to rely on experience, skill and traditional tools.

Gardeners' World BBC2, 8.30pm

BEST OF THE RES

New series. The imminent arrival of spring heralds a new gardening year at Longmeadow, as Monty Don reveals his new plans for the year and takes stock of any winter damage. As well as offering seasonal hints and tips, the presenter embarks on a mission to reduce the use of plastic in his garden starting by exploring alternative containers to use for seed sowing. Adam Frost brings his design expertise to a tiny back yard to demonstrate that, with a bit of ingenuity, every inch of space can count. A Wolverhampton couple show off their inspirational garden, packed to bursting with surprises. Includes a weather forecast for

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Each number in the grid represents a different letter of

the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you

Codeword

15

16

17

18

S

22

10 23

12

13

gravestone reveals will produce a tear

10. Cutting an earth defence needs an industrious worker

11. He's one of a panel

in any case (5)

13. He's unlikely to be in a class of his

own (7)

14. One going in the vessel for a trip (6)

16. Sheep doctor going round old Ireland (6)18. Asian country

surrounding an American state (7) 19. Part of the reason I contrive a kind of boom (5)

20. Fractionally, it's on top (9)
21. The water regulator needs a light touch

22. White cat is only an ounce! (4,7)

Down

- 2. A rest in the afternoon, apparently (3)
 3. One who finds
- things of consuming interest (5) 4. You'll find me
- involved with this as a doctrine (6) 5. Omit what was once indicated in a crossword, one
- hears! (7) 6. Somehow get in RADA as a serious actor (9)
- 7. Outstanding pieces for cinemagoers
- (11) 8. This may well detect a change of heart (11)

 12. Golfer who makes
- regular deliveries!
- 15. Bird pole with line underneath (7) 17. Action that changes
- the tablet (6) 19. Remove the covering from a lath (5)
- Sailor found lying on the road (3)

Quick Clues: Across 1. Concealment (11)

9. Sheep (3)

10

10. Warranty (9)

11. Foe (5)

13. Cost (7)

14. Accompany (6)

16. Bury (6) 18. Momentum (7)

19. Teacher (5)

20. Worldwide (9)

21. Choose (3) 22. Unceasingly (11)

2. Employ (3) 3. Dwarf (5)

Down

4. Effaced (6)

5. Whet (7)

6. Thorough (3-3-3) 7. Harmful (11)

8. Resound (11)

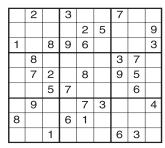
12. Exclusion (9) 15. Alleviate (7)

17. Against (6)

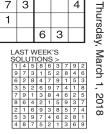
19. Claw (5)

21. Lubricate (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.



Chronicle

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Miss; 3 Handicap; 9 Relates; 10 Amber; 11 Green fingers; 13 Labia; 15 Statue; 17 Maiden voyage; 20 Limbo; 21 Restive; 22 Tendered; 23 Left. Down: 1 Marigold; 2 Solve; 4 Assail; 5 Draught horse; 6 Cabaret; 7 Port; 8 Standard rose; 12 Reverent; 14 Boatman; 16 Entree; 18 Aside; 19 Flat.

19 Flat.
OUICK - Across: 1 Envy; 3 Friction; 9 Fungoid;
10 Upset; 11 Complication; 13 Climbs; 15 Writhe;
17 Appreciation; 20 About; 21 Untwine;
22 Steadily; 23 Dyes. Down: 1 Efficacy; 2 Venom;
4 Reduce; 5 Counterparts; 6 In short; 7 Note;
8 Collaborated; 12 Keenness; 14 Improve;
16 Actual; 18 Icily; 19 Pass.

Quiz

Which London boxer died after a title fight in 1994?

²⁰S

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- Which coin was first minted in Florence in 1252? What is the official residence of the
- presidents of France?
 Of what is copra the dried kernel?
 Who, as minister of health, inaugurated the
- At which racetrack were Ayrton Senna and
- Roland Ratzenberger killed?
- Which club overthrew the Girondists in the French Revolution?
- What do we call the large wild cat Acinonyx iubatus?
- How is Jerusalem's Western Wall also 9. known?
- 10. Which order of knighthood's motto is Honi soit qui mal y pense?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Evita Peron: 2 Thrush: 3 The Rockies

and the Appalachians; 4 78; 5 Oklahoma;

6 Kew Gardens; 7 Babylonian; 8 Gannet

9 Agronomy: 10 USA.

Niner: NIGHTMARE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

465378 12678 3295

gives a Russian leader, gives a second Russian leader, gives a Russian river.



CUSTOMERS ADVERTISE

Advertisements in local newspapers and websites are the most popular way of keeping an eye on the property market

SOURCE: The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014

"Ticket

Oh Chiang Mai! It's hot in the city

Golden temples, bathtime with elephants, knocking up Tom Yum soup or wandering through a bustling night-time market, it's all part of a holiday in Thailand's second biggest city.

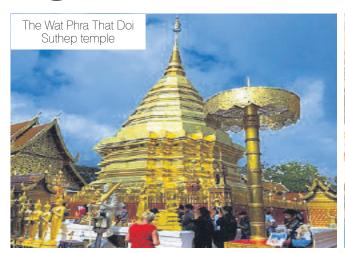
For those more used to Bangkok, Chiang Mai is a refreshing change. More relaxed, the emphasis on culture and exploration rather than the nightlife. The place just feels friendlier and more laid back. A lot of that is down to the almost legendary politeness of Thai people. The wai, the greeting with the slight bow and the hands pressed together, becomes infectious. Chaing Mai is in the north of Thailand, surrounded by mountain greenery. And, thanks to Qatar Airways, getting there is simple these days.

COMFORT

The airline runs regular flights to Doha, the capital of Qatar – and from there it offers a direct service straight to Chaing Mai. It is still around 16 hours of flight time, but Qatar Airways prides itself on comfort and service which eases the stresses and strain of a long journey.

The Shangri-La in Chaing Mai is part of a chain of luxury five-star hotels, with big comfortable rooms well equipped with air-conditioning – a must when the average temperatures are around 30C or more and the humidity is high, particularly at night.

My tour group and I got to experience the humid Thai evening when we headed out to explore Chiang Mai's Sunday night street market. Around 10,000 people regularly pack into the streets of the historic city centre to visit the hundreds of stalls selling handicrafts, most made by the local hill people. And then there is the street food. Our guide, Ms Rattiya ('Call me Yaya') explained that most Thais eat out in the evening. As in many well-developed Asian economies, people work



One of the many stalls offering street food

long hours and, rather than cook when they get home, it is easier to go out. As a result, restaurant and street food is both reasonably priced and very good.

An early start the next morning saw our minibus climbing the 2,500ft to reach the Wat Phra That Doi Suthep temple – almost.

The final 290 steps are up a Naga staircase, decorated with dragons to reach the temple itself and its huge Chedi, or golden spired pagoda, which contains partial relics of the Lord Buddha. It is a wonderful experience but visitors need to show some respect –

Thais take their Buddhist faith seriously. Meanwhile our non-stop schedule took us across the city to the Chiang Mai Thai Cookery School, where Chef Pon introduced us to the mysteries of Thai cuisine.

He showed us what to do, and we then got on with it, eating each dish as we finished cooking it. Those self-made dishes did mean that it was a struggle to find space for more food at the traditional Kantoke dinner that evening.

While we sat on cushions on the floor to dine – easier for some than others – the main entertainment of formal

dances showcased local culture.

And then for something completely different. The following day was a trip to the Thai Elephant Care Centre, at Mae Sa, near Mae Rim. Getting close to these magnificent animals was a lifetime experience.

It's been two decades since I was last in Thailand and I can't say I was impressed. Very touristy and a bit seedy.

Chiang Mai was a revelation. Relaxed but packed with things to see and do.

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RADLEY HEATH, Manson Drive£850 pcm+Fees





HALESOWEN, Hawne Close£750 pcm+Fees A lovely semi detached house set in a cul-de-sac. This lovely house features 3 good size bedrooms, large lounge with a dining area, modern kitchen, conservatory, modern bathroor with shower, a large driveway for 2/3 cars, and a rear garder Available soon and not to be missed. EPC: TBC









HALESOWEN, Wroxley House£650 pcm+Fees



ROWLEY REGIS, Darby Street£595 pcm+Feet A well presented 3 bedroom mid terraced house which has been re-painted throughout, entrance hall, front lounge, larg kitchen/diner with oven/hob, 3 good size bedrooms and family rear garden, allocated parking to rear of property. EPC: TBC





for Cradley Heath shops, bus and train links. Featuring 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility room, downstairs bathroom with shower, upstairs are 2 good size bedrooms gas central heating, rear low maintenance garden. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Cherry Street£575 pcm+Fees





ALESOWEN/COLLEY GATE, Mapletree Lane£575 pcm+Fee







HALESOWEN, Hagley Road£550 pcm+Fees Sami detached house in central Halesowen. This property has 2 large double bedrooms, reception room, kitchen with hob, microwave & fridge, utility room, downstairs bathroom with separate shower, rear garden, gas central heating, double glazed. ND PARKINIG. NO ACCESS TO FRONT RECEPTION AS



A 2 bedroom mid terrace home, being double glazed a centrally heated. The accommodation is suitably loca for nearby amenities and has accommodation to comp



LESOWEN/COLLEY GATE, Ladysmith Road£495 pcm+Fee mid terraced house in a sought after area for Colley Lan imary School, bus links to Halesowen and Stourbridge. This use leatures 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with oven



OLDBURY, Causeway Green Road£450 pcm+Fees This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear



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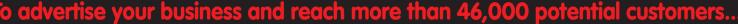
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Nav, Air con, stereo, etc, MoT
November, high miles but
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The spacious SUV from MG

MG GS is now on Motability scheme

through the Motability scheme. For an advanced payment of under £300, you can enjoy all the benefits the MG GS brings, including the 483 litres of boot space, more than enough for transporting everything

you need for those special family getaways.

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Available on Motability at Excite and Exclusive specifications, the MG GS comes packed with crowd-pleasing looks and perfectly stands up to every aspect of your weekly routine. Whether it's a trip to the shops, the school run or a weekend at the beach, the versatile $\ensuremath{\mathsf{MG}}\xspace$ GS is up to the challenge. In addition, the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{MG}}\xspace$ GS comes with a 5-year/80,000 miles warranty as standard giving peace of mind motoring. This complements the 5-year/60,000 miles warranty that comes with the MG3 and the class-leading 7-year/80,000 miles warranty that comes with the MG ZS, both as standard.

Daniel Gregorious, head of sales and marketing at MG

Motor UK, said: "At MG, we have long been supporters of the excellent work done by the Motability scheme, and proud that our entire range is now available on the programme. More than two-thirds of the dealerships in the MG network have a Motability-trained specialist as part of their team, providing expert advice to customers. We are actively supporting other dealerships to install a trained member of staff."

For more information about the Motability Scheme, or to book a test drive, visit: www.mg.co.uk/motability/

Very Important Passenger in rear enjoys first class travel in Audi A8

Now for something a little different – a new car test conducted from the back seat.

Oh yes, I did drive the long wheelbase A8. But to fully appreciate this paragon of first class travel I really had to enter the 'lounge' area in the back and recruit a volunteer chauffeur to take the controls

Big. comfortable armchairs, room to stretch out and full control over your environment and relax in tasteful, discreet luxury is what the A8 L is all about. If you're the sort of VIP or business mogul who likes to take personal

control of things, it's pretty good to drive, too.
The test car was powered by the 'smallest' engine (a 3.0 litre V6) in a range which also includes a 4.2 litre turbodiesel, an eight cylinder, 5.5 litre petrol turbo and even the mightly, 6.3 litre W12 which it shares with the Bentley Bentayga.

Not that it's a major disadvantage, with a 0 to 62mph time of under six seconds the A80 L would see off many sporty' cars although that's not really the point

Much more important in a car of this type is that the 286Ps of power 600Nm of torque means it will accelerate and cruise on motorways in near silence. I'd defy anyone to guess with any certainty it is a diesel.

It comes at a price, of course: £72,210 is the list price of the test model but as press demonstrator it was loaded with extras -£36,000 worth to be exact - to show what is available for the company executive or celebrity.

Most of these options were designed to pamper

passengers, such as the twin TV screens, upgrade to a Bang & Olufsen audio system, panoramic sunroof remotely operated window blinds, front and rear vetilated seats (in sumptuous leather, of course) and even a system to monitor and maintain maximum air quality

The Very Important Passenger in the back, of course, stays in charge of everything but the task of actually driving. Scroll through the screens on the smartphonelike digital controller and you can position the blinds, the panoramic sunroof, set the temperature and operate the audio, TV and connectivity systems – even the angle of

a stretched version of the standard Audi flagship – 130mm longer, which all goes into providing room for even the tallest passenger to stretch out, too. There's even a footrest for added comfort.



Big, comfortable armchairs, room to stretch and control your environment and relax in tasteful, discreet luxury

With the V6 diesel engine under the bonnet, even the company accountant might manage a smile, as its official fuel average is 48.7mpg – remarkable for a car of this size – with a CO2 rating of 152g/km. It has two types of catalytic converter, a particulate filter and exhaust gas recirculation system.

The chauffeur is likely to have a bigger grin, though, purely because the A8, even in long wheelbase form, is a joy to drive. That's partly due to its light weight but strong and stiff construction, plus technology such as the raceproven quattro four wheel drive system.

It also has dynamic all-wheel steering - not a new concept but much refined for a four wheel drive system and highly suited to such a large car, particular in tight spots. Essentially while the front wheel steering reacts to conditions (for more feel at speed, more assistance when manouvring) there's also a degree of steering at the rear

The rear wheels move by up to five degrees against the direction of steering at the front, to significantly reduce the turning circle. At higher speeds, they turn by up to two degrees in the same direction as the front, for a quick turn-in and added stability. It can also act on both axles to restore stability if, for example, you find a muddy stretch on the side of the road affecting just one side of the car.

The net result of these various technologies is that the A8 limo feels as sharp and responsive as other Audis. even the much smaller A3.

The dynamic performance is also aided by an advanced active suspension system, ensuring a featherbed ride without the wallowing through corners which was often a feature of older limousines.

With some more of Audi's Vorsprung durch Technik the A8 is also the world's first production car developed for level 3 highly automated driving. In other words it has systems such as traffic jam pilot, which takes the strain by controlling the steering, braking and accelerating in slowmoving traffic. Parking pilot and garage pilot will take over those tasks for you too,

The A8's interior screams quality, with high grade materials and superb build quality. Add a few of the aforementioned options and control over your environment and you can revel in the sort of luxury usually experienced by first class airline passengers (minus the attentive cabin staff, of course,

But its back seat (or front, for that matter) luxury is matched by first class driving dynamics which could lead enthusiastic drivers to think they don't really want a chauffeur after all.

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Electric cars go up in value at year old Some electric vehicles are seeing their values rise on the used market, driven by increased

demand for low-emission vehicles A new study by vehicle data experts Cap HPI that looked at the value of a number of allelectric and hybrid models when they were one year old with 10,000 miles on the clock, and again at two years old with 20,000 miles, found that some of the electrified models had actually increased in price.

The Peugeot Ion appreciated 8.6 per cent in this time, adding £425 to its value, while the plug-in hybrid Vauxhall Ampera increased by 5.3 per cent (£725).

The Nissan Leaf is Britain's best-selling allelectric vehicle, representing about half of all EV sales last year. Its value on the used market increased by £456, or four per cent.

Other hybrids that saw their values increase included the Toyota Yaris Hybrid at 2.6 per cent (£292) and the Lexus GS Hybrid at 0.7 per cent

Chris Plumb, editor of the Cap HPI Black Book, which tracks used car values, said: 'Sales continue to soar in the EV market as drivers have weighed up the benefits of ownership, such as greatly reduced motoring costs, and other incentives around driving an alternative to petrol or diesel.

"Our latest analysis shows that drivers who buy the right EV can still make money on a sale after running it for a year and adding 10,000 miles. This will be a major factor in persuading

more drivers to go down the EV road."

A spokesman for Toyota said: "We've seen a huge growth in the market for electric hybrids in the last year and that continues

"It's usually the case that increased demand for new vehicles has a positive knock-on effect



Sales continue to soar in the EV market

in the pre-owned market, and that represents yet more value for our customers as residual values for our hybrids rise.

A spokesman for Vauxhall, which no longer sells the Ampera as new, said: "The Vauxhall Ampera range-extender was well ahead of its time when launched in 2012 the electric car with no range anxiety.

"It's still very relevant today, so it's pleasing

to see that current owners made the right

Sales of electrified vehicles in the new car market are increasing rapidly. Although the latest figures from industry body the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show that alternatively fuelled vehicles had a market share of just 5.5 per cent in January, the 9,000 vehicles sold was a 24 per cent jump on last

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Official fuel consumption figures in mog (I/100km) Highest FORD Kuga 1 5 EcoBoost (1829S), A6-AWO: Urban 30.1 (9.4), Extra Urban 44.8 (6.3), Combined 37.7 (7.5), (0, emissions 173(g/km), Lowest FORD Kuga 1.5 TDG (120PS), W6: urban 57.6 (4.9), extra urban 67.3 (4.2), combined 64.2 (4.4). Official CO. emission 175g/km. Retail only. Subject to availability. Prices & details convect at time of publishing & are subject to change without notice. "Finance subject to status to UK residents aged 18 or over through Ford Credit. Guarantees/indemmities may be required. An Excess Mileage Change will be payable if you decide to return the vehicle & the agree exceeded. Finance example figures are based on 6,000 miles per annum for illustration purposes & may vary depending on circumstances. Please note calls may be recorded for training & quality purposes. Details connect at time of publication, E&OE.



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The Rio is effectively Kia's Ford Fiesta rival. While it might not be something you've ever heard of, it has actually been around for a fair few years. While not the obvious choice to many in the supermini market, alongside popular choices, it is worth considering just in terms of value for money. It now gets Kia/Hyundai's relatively new 1.0-litre

T-GDi engine, offering 99bhp and 232Nm of torque. Kia launched its new fourth generation Rio last year giving it a fresh new look and increasing its size. As one of Kia's best-selling cars, it is paramount that it got

it right in the competitive supermini market. It has received Kia's now trademark front slim grille, and a raft of safety technology, allowing it to compete against rivals from Ford and Seat, which both launched new versions of their popular superminis last year. Smart new LED DRLs have also been added. while the infotainment system has been completely redesigned, accessible via a smart seven-inch

Our Rio test car came with Kia's 1.0-litre turbocharged petrol engine. It's a flexible engine, offering decent performance and low running costs, and ideally sized for new drivers.



The cabin of the Rio is well-laid out

It produces 99bhp and a beefy, for its size, 232Nm of torque. While it's not fast, it can get from 0-60mph in 10.3 seconds and onto a top speed of 115mph. It's paired with a five-speed manual gearbox

As for running costs, Kia claims it will return 62.8mpg, while emitting 102g/km of CO2.

However, like many of these small turbocharged engines, it's difficult to get anywhere near the claimed fuel economy figures. After a 300-mile journey in it, and with steady driving, we struggled to get anywhere near

One of the best things about the Rio is how well it sits at motorway speeds. For such a small engine, it doesn't feel strained at all even when sat at 70mph. It also rides well for the best part, with only potholes and hefty bumps threatening to ruin its smoothness

The cabin of the Rio is very well laid out, and everything is logically positioned. The seven-inch touchscreen also makes the Rio's interior look fresh and modern, which it largely is.

It's spacious too, with plenty of room up front and the rear should be big enough to seat two adults

The Rio is an extremely well-equipped car that epresents superb value for money. This top spec '3' model might seem a bit expensive at £16.785, but considering what you get for the money, it's a great

As standard you get 16-inch alloy wheels, automatic lights and wipers, LED DRLs, cornering function lights and electric folding and adjustable mirrors.

On the inside you get faux black leather upholstery with front heated seats, a seven-inch touchscreen that includes satellite navigation, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, rear parking sensors and a reversing

On the safety front, it has autonomous emergency braking, lane departure warning and hill-start control. On our 300-mile snowy journey, though, the braking assist refused to work because of the snow blocking the sensors at the front.

The Kia Rio is a great-value, well-equipped and spacious supermini. In top spec '3', it is laden with all the equipment you'd ever need, and for that reason is the pick of the range.

The 1.0-litre T-GDi engine is also fantastically capable

on the motorway and around town Model as tested: Rio 1.0 T-GDi '3' Eco

History: 25 years of Vauxhall Corsa

By Adam Weller

Since launching to the UK in 1993, the Vauxhall Corsa has become a staple of UK roads, with two million examples of the hatch sold since its debut.

The Corsa's predecessor, the Nova, was one of Britain's most popular hatches throughout the 1980s. However, by the end of it's run, the Nova – sold as the Opel Corsa in Europe was starting to look decidedly dated against rivals such as the Ford Fiesta.

Fortunately, a replacement was in the

■ VALIXHALL CORSA B (1993-2000) With the introduction of the Corsa in 1993, Vauxhall up-ended the hatchback market, with the cars curving, modern style proving to be a sales hit, and cemented the nameplate's reputation as a dependable car for small families and young drivers alike.

The Corsa gradually evolved throughout the 90's with minor facelifts, before being replaced in 2000. However, the design lived on for many years in the Chinese and South American markets

• VAUXHALL CORSA C (2000-2006) The second UK Corsa was launched in October 2000, and proved to be everything a sequel should be; bigger, sharper and more modern, with more trim and engine options than the previous generation.

The second-generation car proved that the Corsa was here to stay. It was the most popular supermini on the market from 2002-2005, before production stopped in 2006. It was also one of the best-selling cars of any type in the UK, a feat which the Corsa has continually achieved ever since



Vauxhall Corsa B (1993-2000)



Vauxhall Corsa C (2000-2006)

This generation of the Corsa, and the early examples of the Corsa D that followed, are still vastly popular with young drivers thanks to their cheap running costs and insurance.

• VAUXHALL CORSA D (2006-2014) When the Corsa D arrived on the market in the latter half of 2006, it was clear that the Corsa had evolved. An all-new platform and new, sweeping styling provided a sleeker, sportier edge to the Corsa. This was further accentuated by a facelift in 2010.

The Corsa D was the first to be bestowed with a VXR badge. The hot hatch launched in 2007 with 189bhp on tap and 0-62 in 6.8secs However, those figures went up with special editions such as the VXR Nürburgring.



Vauxhall Corsa E (2014- present)

The Corsa D was on the market for some eight years, and as such, is the longestrunning Corsa thus far, which is a further

● VAUXHALL CORSA E (2014-PRESENT) Much like the shift between the first and second-generation, the current Corsa is an evolution of its predecessor, rather than a

clean slate. The styling was altered to be more in line with the other stars of the Vauxhall range, with a larger, more striking grille, and an entirely revised look insideand out.

To this day, the Corsa is still one of the biggest-selling cars in the UK and will likely continue to feature prominently on the sales charts for the next 25 years as well.

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MOTORING ROAD TEST

Renault's Grand Scenic takes on rivals

By Will Rimell

The Grand Scenic is Renault's beefed up MPV with extra room and two additional seats for larger families. Renault has tried to bring some modern luxuries to bolster the MPV's appeal, with massaging seats, Bose speaker-system and leather interior.

It's the third generation of the popular family car, first launched in 2004. Its sister, the Scenic, has sold more than 6.5 million cars worldwide since its release in 1996.

For the 2018 update, the French carmaker has completely overhauled both the interior and exterior of the Grand Scenic, giving it a more premium feel than its predecessor.

more premium feel than its predecessor. An abundance of curves and angles make for an attractive look. Renault, though, says it has tried to give its MPV a sporty stance – although sporty is not what comes to mind when looking at it.

The look continues a design 'revolution' by the brand that has also been applied to the Megane, Kadjar, Espace and Talisman models.

Renault gives a large choice of engine sizes, from 1.2- or 1.4-litre petrol to the premium 1.6-litre diesel.

The top-spec diesel, which our test car was fitted with, pumps out 158bhp with 380Nm of torque. Clearly not built for speed, the Grand Scenic can reach the heady heights of 124mph, and a 0-60mph time of 10.5 seconds is nothing to shout about – though certainly brisk enough for everyday driving.

Despite its large size, the Grand Scenic is surprisingly easy to manoeuvre. Take it to a city and it doesn't feel too big, while it takes on backstreets with the same ease as it tackles A-roads. Put the 1.6-litre diesel in Sport



The interiors are comfortable and spacious

mode and the rather surprisingly responsive acceleration gets you from light to light with little fuss.

The Scenic also comes with other driving modes, including Neutral, Comfort, Eco and Perso - which is a fancy way of saying personalised. All these feel pretty much the same, apart from the responsive Sport. Although Eco mode is a bit pointless, saving minimal fuel but heavily impacting on the driving experience with looser steering and diminished acceleration. It's clear that Renault has started afresh

It's clear that Renault has started afresh with the new model. Put the third and fourth generations side by side and the improvements are clear to see. The 2018 model's funkier styling definitely appeals far, far more than the drab exterior of its predecessor.

From the side, the long bonnet and sweeping roof give the Grand Scenic an attractive profile, and from the front the car is



An abundance of curves and angles make for an attractive look

nice to look at – even drawing a few gazes in some areas. But the rear is too squared and boring, which is a shame as, overall, it is an attractive car.

attractive car.
The comfortable and spacious interior of the Grand Scenic is by far its greatest asset. With seven full-leather seats, leather steering wheel, lots of leg room and an abundance of cubby holes, it's an impressively comfortable place to be. Long journeys are a breeze and leave you feeling refreshed rather than dogged.

In the centre of the dashboard sits an 8.7-

inch infotainment system which, despite being large, is difficult to navigate thanks to a myriad of different menus to scroll through.

It is also not recommended to rely on Renault's own sat nav – if you don't know where you're going, you may be better served getting the map out! The Grand Scenic's sat nav is not a fan of tall surroundings, traffic or anything other than straight roads. Luckily, though, it is Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatible, which helps.

However, the Multi-Sense personalisation feature – which allows up to six different users

– is a nice, Netflix-style touch. It changes everything from the driving mode, to the paired phone and even the seat position.

Starting at £23,805, The Grand Scenic is not unreasonably priced. Standard equipment on the Expression+ entry level model in the three trim range includes a seven-inch touchscreen display, climate control, digital speedometer, auto headlights, 20-inch alloy wheels and keyless entry.

From the outset, the Renault Grand Scenic is a funky looking car and this definitely separates it from its competitors.

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Hat's off - Vikram Solanki is a good friend





The Danescourt Road groundsman has seen stars such as Vikram Solanki, Moeen Ali, Wasim Jaffer and Baroness Rachael Heyhoe Flint all shine at the crease he has lovingly ten-

dered for four decades.

Now the 65-year-old is set to embark on a new

Now the bo-year-old is set to embark on a new chapter after confirming his retirement. And he leaves with a secret. He isn't even a fan of cricket!
"I'm like the Wolves fan that is forced to go and watch the Albion every week!" Barrie joked.
"Growing up, I played rugby for Newport in Shropshire. I also played football. Cricket just wasn't a game that thrilled me. I just couldn't get excited by it.
"But from the moment I started studying rases and

"But from the moment I started studying grass and green keeping at college I wanted to be a groundsman.

"Being outside is in my blood. My dad was a farmer

"Being outside is in my blood. My dad was a farmer on Lord Bradford's estate at Weston Park and I would often help him. And then I got the opportunity to work at Tipton Sports Club where I was tutored by head groundsman Bert Flack.

Perfect

"Then I heard about the opportunity at Wolver-hampton Cricket Club and thought it would be per-fect for me and my family."
Barrie recalls heading for his interview at Dane-scourt on a bus with his son Andy in tow in a carrycot.
"A member called Mollie Mackelworth came and picked us up," he said. "Then another member felt sorry for us so he gave us a lift back.
"But as soon as I arrived for the interview I knew the job would be perfect for me. There was a little bungalow down the road and they said that came with the position. My wife and I were wanting another

oungaiow down the road and they said that came with the position. My wife and I were wanting another child so it seemed ideal.

"The local schools were good. It was semi-countrified for the children. They could play by the pool and come home and put up tents. They had everything they needed."

Barrie and bis mife.

And he quickly struck up a rapport with a number of high-profile players.
"I may not be the biggest cricket fan but the one

By Joseph Masi

"I may not be the biggest

ers. Some very special peo-

ple have passed through this cricket club over the years."

"I may not be the biggest cricket fan but the one thing I'm really going to miss is the camaraderie with the players," he said.
"Some very special people have passed through this cricket club over the years.
"Rachael Heyhoe Flint was one of the most lovely ladies you could ever meet. You could always have a laugh and a joke with her. She had a great sense of humour.

laugh and a joke with her. She had a great sense of humour.

"Vikram Solanki is a good friend. Whenever he comes to the ground we always have a chat. I get on really well with Vikram.

"But they have all been great. I have not had any argument with any of them. Of course, they always praise the pitch when they have won. Then blame the pitch when they have won. Then blame the pitch when they have lost! But you soon get used to that. But it was always a laugh coming in and having a beer with the players after a game."

a beer with the players after a game."

A multiple winner of groundsman of the year, Barrie has some of the steadiest hands in the Birmingham League.

And he says hard work is the secret to keeping a pitch so immaculate for so long.

"It's a devotion not a job," he said. "At times it feels like you are working 24 hours a day, seven days week.

ways something to do. "I developed skin cancer 12 years ago but I think you just have to put that down as an occupational

"This was me, though. I couldn't have worked in n office all day. I wanted to be outside with nature." He has a number of highlights during his time at

cricket fan but the one thing I'm really going to miss is the camaraderie with the play-

He has a number of nignights during his time at Wolverhampton. But he admits the team's victory in the National Knockout back in 1999 really stands out. Barrie added: "A real highlight was winning the National Knockout in 1999. That was great. "We had loads of coaches from all the local cricket clubs going down to Lord's.

"We even had our local rivals Walsall getting a coach together. It was a really big thing."

coach together. It was a really big thing.

"Ann and I went down with the team. We stayed overnight and had lunch at Lord's and went out on

"It wasn't bad for someone who doesn't like cricket!"

To prove groundskeeping is in the family blood, his son looks after the fairways at nearby South Staffs Golf Club. And it's spending time with his family that Barrie is most looking forward to in his retirement.

Support "My daughter Julie lives in France so I'm looking forward to being able to go over there and stay with her," he said. "My wife Ann passed away fairly re-cently and we had hoped to see more of the country-side together. When she died, I just lost it and knew

I had to retire

I had to retire.

"I have got five grandchildren and three step-grandchildren, they will keep me busy. I've had a full life really so it's time to slow down."

While he will be slowing down, Barrie will still be a regular feature at Danescourt.

"I'm still going to come and support the team and barrack them," he added.

"I've got so many friends here and I know I can always come back and have a laugh.

"I'll miss the players but I'm not going to miss running out to put the covers on when it rains. I'll have a big smile on my face when I see the new groundsman doing that."



Barrie Richards - leaving Danescourt after 42 years

Cricket Club

Barrie and his wife Ann welcomed two daughters while living in the bungalow. Lovely - Rachael Heyhoe Flint Question of sport for Albion and Glassboys

to-head in a Question of Sport evening to raise money for a local charity.

The likes of Darren "Big Dave" Moore and Glassboys boss Gary Hackett will face off in a charity version of the TV sports quiz with all money raised for the Mary Stevens Hospice. It takes place on Thursday April 5 in the clubhouse at Stourbridge FC's War Memorial Athletic Ground. Alongside Moore, Team WBA will comprise Ian Hamilton, James Cham-bers, Mark Naylor and an as yet unnamed fifth player, while Team Stour-

LEGENDS from West Bromwich Albion and Stourbridge FC will go head

bridge will feature Andy Pountney, Jon Ford, Matt Webb and Craig Slater organisers have also told supporters to expect "a couple of guests" and "rolling subs", as the players will also be taking time out to chat with fans

Tickets are £8 including a fish & chip supper. To book, visit Marystever shospice.co.uk/event/charity-question-sport or call (01384) 377778.

Memorial Trophy – with charity set to be the big winner on the day.

The game, on April 8, will be the third annual legends match between the two sides in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice. It kicks off at the War Memorial

Athletic Ground at 2.30pm. The first game ended in a 1-1 draw, while Baggies were victorious last year with a 6-4 scoreline. Last year's gate surpassed 3,000, a sell-out for Stourbridge FC. The games have helped to raise more than £40,000 for the hospice over the last

two years

The Jane Webb Memorial Trophy is named in honour of a hospice supporter who was the inspiration for the game.

Fundraisers at the hospice collaborate on the event each year with original organisers Matt Webb, a former Glassboys player and Mark Naylor, elite development goalkeeping coach at West Bromwich Albion.

Admission is £10, or free for under-15s.

Rhino has sights on powering to victory

RYAN Stewart Davies has promised something special when he fights at Walsall Town Hall this weekend. Davies, aged 25, is on the bill at BCB Promotions' The Class of 2018' on Saturday.

'Rhino' has been focusing on increasing his firepower and said he was looking to land a bomb on opponent Myles Vale. He said: "I have been working hard on my strength and power for this one. People come to boxing to see a knockout and I want to be able to do that here."

'The Class of 2018' sees Walsall super welterweight Levi Ferguson, Wolverhampton welterweight Gareth Gardner and Wolverhampton-based Pole Damian Kiwior, welterweight, all fight for the first time. They are joined by Walsall bantamweight Humza Ali, Kingswinford super welterweight Danny Ball and Wolverhampton cruiserweight Antony Woolery.

Tickets are £35 general admission (£40 on the door) and £60 (VIP Ringside to include buffet and waitvess service). Call 0845 111 2900 or see

side to include buffet and waitress service). Call 0845 111 2900 or s https://iboxingtickets.com/

Legends on the ball for fundraising clash

bort

Grounds for retirement innings over for Barrie

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Tyne tease tired Stour in second half

Tynedale 52 Stourbridge 29
TWELVE tries last week and 13 tries
this week, suggests another close encounter - the difference being an eight minute spell at the start of the second

A second road trip in seven days is never ideal, particularly when five key players are missing through injury or personal commitments. The intensity of the previous week's game at Sedgley Park also took its toll.

However, at 06.45am on Saturday the team set off from Stourton Park knowing that win or lose they would still be in second place

in second place.

in second place.

'Dale kicked off and immediately gained a penalty and a tap penalty set their stall out as Ollie Walker darted over for the first five points. Tynedale tight head prop Colin Scullion was stretchered off following a collision with Chad Thorne, who managed just 25 minutes more. Tom Dodd also came off following a Stour yellow card infringement by Sam Wilkes.

But Stour scored 24 unanswered points – 17 when down to 14 men – in-

points - 17 when down to 14 men - inpoints – 17 when down to 14 men – including a Chris Scott penalty. Robbie Forbes crossed the line after some good work by Ben Tibbetts break and Stour man of the match Nick Murphy.

Advantage

Stour's second try came when Alex Hearle intercepted and sprinted a full 70 metres. Chris Scott hit the conversion and the visitors were ahead 5-17. 'Dale

and the visitors were ahead 5-17. 'Dale came back but Stour found themselves 17-29 to the good by the break.

The game turned on the home side's purple patch at the start of the second, amassing a further 21 points through tries by Smith, Richard Elliot and Nicholas Cairns. Ash Smith converted all and Turnedals had reversed the scowes taking Tynedale had reversed the scores taking

Tynedale had reversed the scores taking a 16 points advantage.

The third interception try sealed the game for Tynedale when Guy Pike latched on to a speculative pass to score his second try of the game. Smith converted and it was mission impossible for Stour to improve on the 43rd minute bonus point.

Brummies kitted out in new racesuits

BIRMINGHAM will compete in team racesuits in 2018 for the first time since joining the National League.

The decision has been made by new co-promoters of the Perry Barr-based speedway club, David and Peter Mason, with input from commercial manager Lee Kilby.

The new-look racesuits are predominantly yellow with red and black also featuring throughout.

"That's the traditional colour associ-

ated with Birmingham Speedway and we know it will prove the most popular with our supporters," said David Mason.

Hagley through to regional fin

CHAMPIONS Hagley returned to form in the WCB Indoor League North division, beating Quatt by 10 wickets.

Quatt started well with Ryan Wheldon (38) and Ed Parker, though the latter went in the third over Alex Biddle joined the contest and the score accelerated until he was run out. The lower order came and went until Craig Jones and the returning Wheldon added late runs. After both departed, Quatt were bowled out for 92.

Debutant Lee Nightingale (26 no), partnered by Joe Lennon (26 no) set about the Quatt bowl-

HALESOWEN earned three

precious points after hitting

two late goals in a stunning

The Yeltz made a perfect start when Spencer Weir-Daley was left free in the six yard box to head past Matlock's debutant goalkeeper Jordan Pierrepont from Jack Kelly's third minute

But Halesowen failed to build on their early lead as Matlock captain Shaun Harrad met Jake Green's looping cross with a glancing header to equalise six minutes later.

equalise six minutes later.

The Gladiators dominated possession and had a great opportunity after 26 minutes when Edward Cribley took advantage of a poor header from Asa Charlton, only for Dan Platt to make a fine blocking save. Harrad missed another chance for Matlock in a 50th minute scramble and Curtis Morrison hit a 53rd minute wide effort straight at Platt.

Weir-Daley almost regained the lead when he rattled the crossbar with a 55th minute shot.

Deflected

Matlock continued to be profligate and missed yet another sitter in the 57th minute when Mi-chael Williams latched onto Platt's sliced clear-

ance and crossed for Harrad to balloon over the bar from just five yards out. The visitors finally took a 2-1 lead in the 62nd minute when Cribley stepped inside his marker and his shot from the edge of the area deflected off a defender beyond Platt.

The Yeltz introduced Roland Agbor with eight minutes remaining and turned the tables with a dramatic turnaround as Agbor brought the scores level at 2-2 after slotting home an 88th minute cross from Weir-Daley.

Lee Knight then headed home the crucial winner in the third minute of injury time following a fine cross from the right by Ivor Lawton.

late comeback.

ing and on their retirement the next two batsmen continued the assault to win with three overs to spare at 94-0.

In the other game, Chaddesley Corbett beat Enville by eight wickets on the last ball of the game.

Enville openers Matt Branch (34 no) and Jono Howells (32 no) set off at a brisk pace until the former Branch retired with the score on 38.

Debutant Jay Willis (28 no) joined Howells and maintained the run rate. With their retirements the remaining batsman perished as they looked for runs and Enville ended on 130-3. In reply

URY TI

change bowlers were introduced Chaddesley in-creased the run rate, with three out of the top four retiring.

The gap narrowed - 11 were required in the final over and the scores were level with one ball left. Chaddesley went for the big hit and scored the four needed to win at 134-2.

Meanwhile, Hagley progressed to the regional finals at Edgbaston on Sunday by beating Staffordshire champions Sneyd CC. They play Bedfordshire winners Potton Town in the semi-finals.

Ball awaits tougher tests in the ring

KINGSWINFORD fighter Danny Ball is looking to build on his explosive start to professional boxing with another eye-catching performance this weekend. The 21-year-old fights on BCB Promotions' 'The Class of 2018' at Walsall Town Hall, on Saturday. Ball has only done six rounds overall in his first three fights, with his scintillating power ending two of his bouts prematurely in the first round. Saturday's fight will be his last scheduled fourrounder before he moves up to six.

He feels he has a lot to improve on and he is hoping for a tougher test.

"I couldn't have asked for a better start to my career," Ball said. "But this is just the start and I just have to keep focused and keep it up.

"There is still plenty to work on. I want to build on my fitness even more

want to build on my fitness even more and I want to get a few more rounds under my belt. "I want to be tested in this one so I

"I want to be tested in this one so I know what my limits are so I am hoping for a tough fight."

The super welterweight has been matched against the tough Danny Little, who stopped previously unbeaten Jordan Clayton last time out.

Ball added: "I want to make it exciting and give the fans something to enjoy here," he added.
"Hopefully there will be a title fight at the end of the year. If I get another stoppage then I should get fast tracked to bigger things."

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Kelly's eye on future with Town



Defender Jack Kelly in action for Halesowen Town against Marine on Merseyside recently

HALESOWEN Town defender Jack Kelly has

HALESOWEN Town defender Jack Kelly has pledged his immediate future to the club after turning down an approach from Evo-Stik Premier rivals Rushall Olympic.

Former Nottingham Forest player Kelly has made 31 appearances for the Yeltz this season, scoring four goals. His latest strike was against Matlock at the weekend.

The club said in a statement: "Jack said he wanted to show his loyalty to the players and

supporters and do everything possible to keep the Yeltz in the Northern Premier League." At half-time during Halesowen Town's matched against visitors Matlock Town at The

matched against visitors Matlock Town at The Grove, Keith McKenna was introduced as the club's new investor.

McKenna is currently youth team manager at Halesowen and made five appearances for the Yeltz first-team in 1993, scoring on his debut in a 4-1 victory over Crawley Town.

Speedway sponsor stays loyal to club

CRADLEY Heathens have received an off-track boost with Motor Market continuing their role as title sponsors heading into the 2018 campaign.

The car dealership have backed the

Heathens for a number of years and stepped up their involvement in 2015.

The club will now enter their fourth season as the Motor Market Heathens and owner Dean Reiden is delighted to and owner Dean Bridge is delighted to keep supporting his boyhood speedway club heading into the National Trophy. Bridge said: "As far as we're con-cerned, there wasn't too much of a ques-

tion about continuing. We're pleased for it to continue."

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by he company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, March 1, 2018

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